



Fire District 4

FIRE & RESCUE

Serving North Spokane County

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www.scf4.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Chief Randy Johnson, (509) 467-4500

Fire District 4 celebrates its volunteers during National Volunteer Week

Chattaroy, Wash. – Nationally, the fire service depends on volunteers to operate and Fire District 4 is no different. April 21 – 28 is National Volunteer Week.

Since 1943, volunteer firefighters have served their neighbors in the rural areas north of Spokane. As development has moved north, Fire District 4 has developed as well – but has always retained its volunteer base, to this day, over 60 people apply to volunteer each year. Twice a year we evaluate those applications and invite those that meet the requirements, to join our organization.

To become a fully qualified fire fighter, a volunteer must give a minimum of 250 hours of their life just learning how to provide safe care to the public – whether this is fighting a fire, extricating someone from a vehicle after an accident, or administering emergency medical attention to a sick patient in their home.

District wide, volunteers give approximately 48 hours per month staffing stations and being available to respond to emergencies. Then there are the training hours – each firefighter needs to stay proficient with their skills which leads to extra time honing their skills.

A staffing model that is heavily dependent on volunteers is a win-win for firefighters and the citizens of the District. For the volunteers, they get a chance to serve plus experience the rush of fighting fires and helping people. For the citizens, service is increased and costs reduced due to lower operating costs of this staffing model for the District.

Firefighters are not the only volunteers in the district. Support Services is a vibrant part of the district's operations, providing help instructing public education programs and help to the firefighters on long duration incidents with comfort and much needed nourishment. Their name fits them perfectly – they are great support!

Volunteers make up 69% of the fire service across America. Fire District 4 honors and thanks the 198 volunteers in our program. Chief Randy Johnson said, "The dedication of our volunteers never fails to amaze me. They are the backbone of our program, and critical to our mission"

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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. Find Spokane County Fire District 4 on Facebook and Twitter @SpokaneCoFire4 or visit the web site at www.scf4.org.