



# Fire District 4

## FIRE & RESCUE

*Serving North Spokane County*

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[www.scf4.org](http://www.scf4.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Practice Fire Escape Plans while checking your smoke detectors this weekend**

Chattaroy, Wash. – This Sunday, Daylight Savings begins and it is time to set our clocks one hour forward. It is the perfect time to change the 9 volt batteries in all your smoke detectors. Fire District 4 encourages families to also practice home escape plans that day as well.

Fire safety practice often gets put on a low priority list of things to do in our busy lives. The threat seems so remote, and there are many other tasks to capture our time and attention. That is why having a dedicated day for these actions is a good idea.

Working smoke alarm save lives. Test your alarm once a month, and change your 9 volt batteries at least once per year. Ten-year lithium batteries just need to be tested with the alarm once a month. Replace the entire smoke alarm at least once every ten years.

Everyone will benefit from practicing a home escape plan. This activity is important for adults and children. Simply draw out a floor plan of your home, and practice getting out of different areas. Each individual should know two ways out of every room.

Having a meeting place outside, away from all dangers, is also of utmost importance. Emergencies are chaotic, so knowing where everyone is can be a challenge. If all residents know where to gather, this can help create some order and account for everyone.

Practicing your home escape plan will help you feel more confident if an emergency does occur in your home, such as a fire. Although the chance of such an emergency is small, being confident and practiced will help keep you and your family safe. Make this a fun event – children practice drills at school, so why not at home?

Fire District 4 reminds you to take time to be safe in your home – now and throughout the year! For more information on fire escape plans, please go to [www.scf4.org](http://www.scf4.org) and click on “How to Make a Home Fire Escape Plan.”

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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 Fire District 4 on Facebook at [/SpokaneCoFire4](https://www.facebook.com/SpokaneCoFire4), Twitter ([@SpokaneCoFire4](https://twitter.com/SpokaneCoFire4)) or visit the web site at [www.scf4.org](http://www.scf4.org).*