



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: April 12, 2016

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

More volunteers responding to calls at Spokane County Fire District 4

67% of all shifts filled by volunteers to date in 2016

Chattaroy, Wash. – Spokane County Fire District 4 has a proud history of being a volunteer fire department. This means community members donate their own time to train as a firefighter/EMT or paramedic, respond to emergencies, and work shifts at stations to keep the community safe. Currently, Fire District 4 has the highest volunteer participation in decades with 138 members involved in the program.

The vision for recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters has always been clear for Fire District 4's leadership. The most recent business plan states that the goal is to have 50% of daily shifts covered by volunteer firefighters. Part-time paid firefighters fill the shifts that volunteers are unable to cover due to work, family or life commitments.

Fire District 4 met its goal in 2015 – volunteer firefighters covered 53% of all shifts. So far in 2016, data shows an even stronger volunteer presence, with 67% of shifts filled year-to-date.

“These firefighters are your friends, family members and neighbors – all committed to saving lives and property” says Chief Randy Johnson. “We are extremely thankful for their service and grateful for the time they donate to our community.”

A typical shift for a volunteer firefighter is 12 hours – day or night. Fire District 4 provides staffing at five stations, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This means 20 positions must be filled in every 24-hour period.

The Staffing Committee meets regularly to discuss volunteer recruitment, retention and other issues facing firefighters. Although the passion to serve the community is present, time may not be. It takes sacrifice - not only by the firefighter, but by his or her family, to give back to the community as a volunteer.

Fire District 4 has had great success growing and expanding its volunteer program, even while other fire departments report losing volunteers. One reason for this is that volunteers are accepted from neighboring communities. A second reason is that Fire District 4 works hard to attract and keep firefighters by providing decent facilities and scheduling procedures that make it easy to volunteer.

April 10-17, 2016 is National Volunteer Week. Fire District 4 wants to acknowledge the hard work of its volunteers, and thank them for their commitment to saving lives and property. If you are interested in volunteering, contact our District Office at (509) 467-4500 or visit our website: www.scf4.org.

###

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](#), Twitter [@SpokaneCoFire4](#), or visit the web site at www.scfd4.org.