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 Find us on the web @ www.scf4.org

Serving North Spokane County
www.scf4.org
 A publication designed to keep you informed on your local fire department.
 Proudly serving the communities of North Mead, Mt. Spokane, Green Bluff, Colbert, Chattaroy, Riverside, Elk, Deer Park, Wild Rose, and Wayside.

SUMMER 2010

A Message From The Chief

by Chief Edward A. Lewis

Hello and welcome to this edition of *District 4 Dispatch*.

I would like to open with a note of appreciation for your support during the Levy Lid Lift in February of this year.

During the days leading up to the election, many of you took time to contact us for clarification of the issues facing the fire district and how resources from the Levy Lid Lift would be utilized. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss the importance of stable funding and how this funding equates to the district's ability to maintain and enhance levels of service.

Thank you for your continued support and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions about Your Fire District. Have a Great Summer.



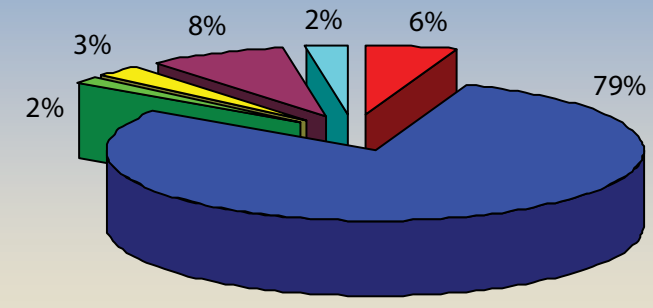
FIRE DISTRICT 4 SERVING NORTH SPOKANE COUNTY

Help Us Find You! 2009 Incidents Totaled 2223

Fire District 4 offers address signs as a public service to Help Us Find You!

- The signs are free of charge to Fire District residents.
- The program is on a first come, first receive basis.
- Donations are accepted and they help support Fire District 4 programs.
- There is no obligation to donate.
- Sign donations are tax deductible pursuant to IRS regulations.

To request a sign contact the District Office at 467-4500, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.



- Fire
- Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Calls
- Hazardous Condition Call
- Service Call
- Good Intent call
- False Alarm

Understanding Your Operational Funding

It is important to understand what funding sources the district relies on for operations. In February, 2010 voters approved a levy lid lift in support of a 5 year expenditure plan (outlined in the January 2010 letter from the Fire Commissioners). The 5 year plan is designed to support the District's current Level of Service while meeting an ever increasing demand for emergency response. An important element of our operational funding is the District's ability to maintain current funding from the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy of .33¢ per \$1,000 assessed property value. The EMS levy expires on December 31, 2010 which funds about 27% of the District's 2010 operational budget. We continue to evaluate options associated with maintaining the current level of operational funding.

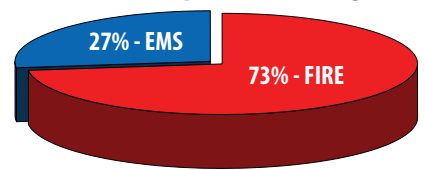
Our goal is providing effective and efficient emergency response when you need it.

If you have any questions or wish additional information, please contact us at 509-467-4500.

Respectfully,

Jim Lahde Jack Hensley Roger Krieger
 Spokane Fire District 4 Board of Commissioners

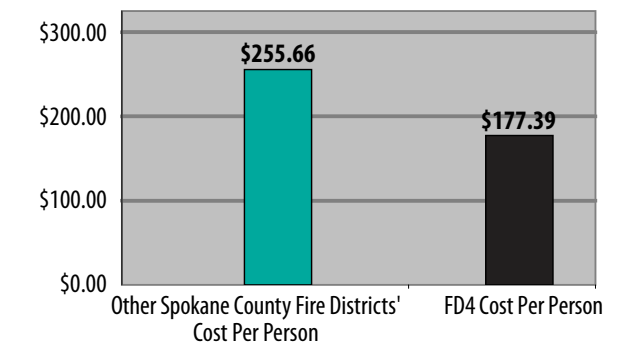
The EMS Levy represents 27% of the Annual Operational Budget

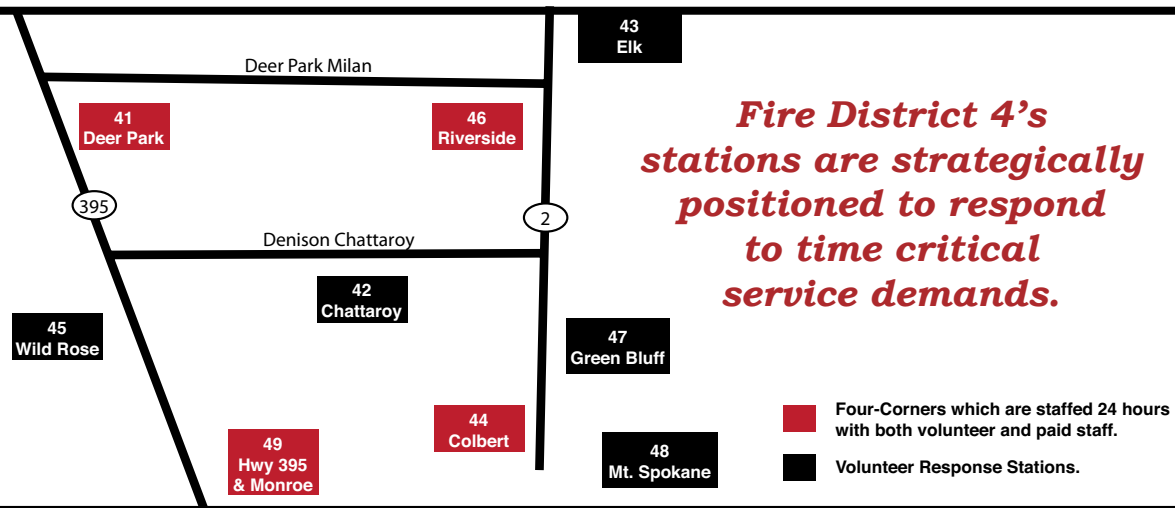


We pledge to manage your funds, in a conservative and responsible manner as illustrated in the Per Person Cost Chart.

The current EMS Levy will expire December 31, 2010.

Projected 2011 Annual Per-Person Cost
 An average of other Spokane County Fire Districts that staff 24hrs/365 days a year (excludes City Fire Departments). Population and revenue estimates were provided by Spokane County. (Does not reflect the level of service delivered.)





Fire District 4's stations are strategically positioned to respond to time critical service demands.

■ Four-Corners which are staffed 24 hours with both volunteer and paid staff.
 ■ Volunteer Response Stations.



Ready, Set, Go!

The annual wildfire season is upon us. Ready, Set, Go! are three simple words that prepare you for the wildfire season!



GET READY: PREPARE YOUR FAMILY AND HOME

The Ready part begins with a home that firefighters can defend. Defensible space of green buffer is the required space between a structure and the wildland area that, under normal conditions, creates a sufficient green buffer to slow or halt the wildfire spread to your home.

While you may not be able to accomplish all the measures listed on our web site www.scf4.org, each will increase your home's, and possibly your family's, safety and survival during a wildfire.

The American Red Cross recommends every family have an emergency supply kit assembled long before a wildfire or other emergency occurs. For more information on emergency supplies, visit the American Red Cross Web site at www.redcross.org.

GET SET: AS THE FIRE APPROACHES

- Evacuate as soon as the evacuation notice is given or if you believe you are in harms way.
- Alert family and neighbors by fasts way possible.
- Dress in appropriate clothing (natural fibers clothing, cotton, & work boots). Have goggles and a dry bandana or particle mask handy.
- Ensure that you have your emergency supply kit on hand that includes all necessary items, such as a battery powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and ample drinking water.
- Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates.
- Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water and keep an eye on your family and pets until you are ready to leave.

Information on the checklists can be found at www.scf4.org.



GO! EARLY

By leaving early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire.

WHEN TO LEAVE: Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion.

WHERE TO GO: Leave to a predetermined location.

HOW TO GET THERE: Have several travel routes in case one route is blocked. Choose an escape route away from the fire.

WHAT TO TAKE: Take your emergency supply kit containing your family and pet's necessary items.

Fire District 4 personnel hope you have found this information helpful as you prepare your home and family for a wildfire, but for more complete information go to www.scf4.org or contact District Office @

509-467-4500 to request a pamphlet.



Now, Get Ready, Get Set, Go!

Better Too Much Than Not Enough!

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Dispatching

The silence of a quiet evening is shattered by the wail of sirens. A fire truck with flashing lights pulls up in front of your neighbor's house and firefighters rush inside.

Minutes later an ambulance arrives. Certain that some sort of disaster has happen to your neighbors; you rush over to see if you can be of assistance to the family. You then find that one of the children has been stung by a bee and your neighbor called 9-1-1 to have the child evaluated. She is embarrassed by all the created commotion; all she really wanted was one person with emergency medical knowledge.

A common question heard by firefighters is "Why does it take all these vehicles and people for a medical emergency incident?"

Let us begin with the bee sting incident described above. When the fire dispatcher received the 911 call, it was dispatched as soon as the address and type of problem was determined. Some bee sting victims have been known to have an immediate anaphylactic reaction, which is often life threatening. In this instance, as with other types of emergency incidents, a situation exists that has the potential of becoming critical.

The advantage to District 4's type of dispatching and response is based on the position that those in dire need will receive the quickest emergency medical help.

Fire District 4 wisely takes a "better too much than not enough" approach to save a life or prevent further injury. As District 4's administration continues to reassess its EMS response system, they also continue to explore the use of innovative, cost effective and conservative approaches to EMS dispatch and responses for the future.

EMS Dispatching Facts and Issues

- Closest station(s) are dispatched through 9-1-1 and fire dispatch.
- Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician (EMTs) plus an ambulance with a paramedic are dispatched.
- Firefighter/EMTs usually reach a medical incident before an ambulance.
- If firefighters determine an ambulance is not needed, it is cancelled making it available to respond to another emergency.
- Sometimes firefighters will arrive in a larger fire truck and you may wonder "Why?"
 - Allows more firefighters to assist in complex medical aid situations i.e. trauma, and CPR.
 - To be ready for the next incident (In 2008-09 Fire District 4 had 752 overlapping or simultaneous EMS and fire emergencies).
- Emergency Medical Service (EMS) responses continue to increase significantly each year.
 - Rescue and EMS incidents are approximately 79% of Fire District 4's total responses.
- Extensive studies published in the Annals of Emergency Medicine found for each minute without medical aid the chance of survival of a critically ill or injured person decreases significantly, especially in cardiac arrest.



Outdoor Burning Information

- Residential Outdoor Burning was banned May 1, 2009 by Spokane Clean Air Agency. For more information call 509-477-4727.
- Residential outdoor burning ban applies to the city limits of Deer Park and including Spokane County Urban Growth Areas (Residential subdivisions or near these subdivisions).
- This ban does not affect burning of natural vegetative material generated on acreage that is subject to the DNR State Fire property tax. Contact Northeast Region Department of Natural Resources at 509-684-7474 for more information.
- Spokane Clean Air Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology may issue bans on outdoor burning based on air quality.
- Local fire protection agencies and local County officials may impose a burn ban based on local conditions and fire hazards.
- Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may issue burn bans on state lands and on unimproved private property based on time of year and fire danger ratings.
- For more information from Fire District 4 call 509-467-4500.