



Spokane County Fire District 4

The Rural Responder



Established 1945

Randy Johnson, Fire Chief
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Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Serving North Spokane County
June 2014

Commissioners
Roger Krieger Jim Lahde Jack Hensley

Visit our improved website:
www.scfd4.org

Stepping Into the Future ... Steady as We Go

SCFD4's business philosophy addresses long-term planning with an annual Business Plan and prescribed Business Practices. We know that if we do not plan carefully for the long term, the next step into the future may not put our best foot forward. The 2014 Business Plan provides the following guidance: *(For a complete text of the business plan, visit www.scfd4.org and click on the commissioner link)*

- The Board shall establish Levels of Service with public input.
- The Board of Commissioners shall establish a formal funding strategy to include funding capital improvement projects, primarily facilities, property and apparatus. The Fire District may utilize the Bond / Levy process.
- Assessing capital improvement needs on a regular basis.

Our Citizens Advisory Committee

The Citizen's Advisory Committee reconvened in January to review the 2014 Business Plan, service levels, service demands, and ways to best meet those demands. They examined the District's overall financial position, its funding and its funding strategies. Their input and guidance resulted in the decision to present a ballot measure to our citizens.

Why bonds?

- Bond funds allow us to use regular levy and EMS levy funds for daily operations and programs.
- Bonds are designed to acquire land, construct/equip new facilities, renovate existing facilities, acquire new response vehicles and equipment, and upgrade our communication systems.

Why now? The timing is based on several critical factors:

- Increased demand for service
- Age and conditions of some of the existing facilities
- More space is needed at Deer Park's Station 41, our busiest station.
- Nearly 25% of our front line response apparatus is 20 years old or older.
- Improving the facilities and equipment helps us maintain or improve current insurance ratings.
- rates are at a historic low, and the current bond is paid off this December. Taxpayers benefit by keeping a level tax rate, and the District has a stable funding source.



We'd like to acknowledge and thank the members of our Citizens Advisory Committee: Pete Blackwell, Dan Conley, Nathan Green, Jerry Gutman, Jerry Huff, Calvin Knapp, Linda Knapp, and Ron Turner. Volunteers, like our firefighters, they represent many different walks of life. Each one is using their unique skills to be part of the solution in our quest to meet the growing emergency response needs in SCFD4.

Thank you for answering the call to be neighbors helping neighbors!

Extrication Equipment: A Good Save

A substantial part of our operations budget and service planning pertains to equipment. Our 2014 budget included adding extrication tools on several corner response engines.

During February, Engine 40 (E40), which rotates as a supplement engine for all the stations, was equipped with extrication equipment similarly to that on corner station Engines 41 and 44.

- This allows E40 to be used for extrication training without taking a corner engine out of service during training exercises.
- E40 also subs when corner engines are taken out of service. Now there is no down time due to transferring extrication equipment between the two engines.
- Centrally located at Station 42, E40 saves time getting on scene as a second-in for extrications.
- Before the equipment was installed we asked ourselves, "What if E40 was first on scene at an extrication MVA?"

We had no idea this concern would be addressed so quickly. On Friday, March 14, E40 arrived first on scene of a serious MVA, 3 to 4 minutes ahead of E44. Circumstances required rapid extrication. Regardless, the equipment was available for immediate use.

On Friday, March 21st, Engine 40 was again first on scene to an extrication MVA. Precious minutes and lives were saved with Engine 40's equipment.

We can't know what the future will bring, but it looks brighter because

WE ARE READY...



Insurance Rating Update

Fire District 4 worked closely with the Washington State Survey and Rating Bureau for many months, and the 2014 project is finished. The result is encouraging. We had no change to our current Community Grade, which means stable and predictable insurance rates for our District constituents.

Moving forward, we are dedicated to keeping or improving this rating. Our resources, operations, and business practices are reviewed often to ensure that we stay on track. Capital improvements are planned so we can continue well into the future with the high quality, cost-effective services and affordable insurance rates that our community expects.

Risk Management Improvements

The Duty Officer is a command position within the department, responsible for command and control of incidents and general response readiness. Our recently implemented Volunteer Duty Officer Program is designed to provide an increased level of risk management and support on scene to our citizens and responders.

Within our volunteers is a group of senior officers whose time in fire service ranges from 18 to 42 years. Their total service time is an impressive 133 years. We wanted to use the experience of this cadre, and are pleased to report that their participation as Volunteer Duty Officers is giving an extra measure of leadership in the field. This has proven to be highly beneficial during multiple critical incidents, from structure fires to high impact motor vehicle accidents.



Volunteer Captains / Duty Officers: Brad Martin, John Howerton, Mark Lewis and Walt Seidel. Not pictured, Rolly Johnson. *Photo by Salina Major*

Pictured above are four of our five Volunteer Duty Officers. Look closely. One of them could be your next-door neighbor!

And the Beat Goes On ... Neighbors Helping Neighbors

We just finished our third year of teaching Hands Only CPR to freshman high school students in District 4. Over 1,870 students finished this training.

On Monday, February 10, one of those students made the first documented "community save" directly attributed to that CPR/AED training.

A 15-year-old 10th grader was present when her grandfather collapsed. With the CPR training fresh in her mind, she immediately dialed 911. In that conversation, she asked whether or not to start CPR. Dispatch said yes, and then continued talking with her as she performed chest compressions.

Being part of this chain of survival is gratifying to all involved in this training series. We look forward to the benefits of our young people knowing how and when to use the skills we can teach them.

It is truly a simple, yet life-changing way for neighbors to help neighbors.

Community Award

SCFD4 was recognized with a Heart Rescue Award for its leadership role training students to recognize and prevent Sudden Cardiac Arrest.



Serving North Spokane County
3219 East Chattaroy Road
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Website: www.scf4.org

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Facts About Your Fire District



- You currently have
 - 109 volunteer responders
 - 28 paid part-time responders
 - 38 volunteer auxiliary personnel
 - 17 paid full-time command, administrative and maintenance/shop personnel

Picture yourself here!



- ◆ Personnel of your District completed **19,904** hours of training in the year 2013
- ◆ Taught fire prevention to **3,105** students in grades K-5
- ◆ Gave station tours to **239** children
- ◆ Taught CPR to **572** freshman students
- ◆ Implemented **Advanced Life Support** program with volunteer paramedics
- ◆ Responded to **2,057** EMS related calls and **543** Fire related calls
- ◆ Participated in **many** local community events, some of which include:
The Cherry Picker Trot, Elk Days, Fill The Boot, Pumpkin Lane, Santa Patrols, Settler's Days, Mother's Day Breakfast, Boy Scout Camporee, Relay for Life, Mt. Spokane High School Mock Crash, October on the Bluff, and the Deer Park Air Show.



VOLUNTEERS WELCOME Your Neighborhood needs YOU!