



Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New water tender coming for Benton County Fire District 4

Apparatus helps improve fire protection in rural areas

[West Richland, Wash.] Benton County Fire District 4 has purchased a new water tender. This will be the second one owned by the fire district that serves 17,000 people over 52 square miles, including the City of West Richland.

This piece of apparatus is critical to fighting fires in rural areas where there is no dedicated water supply. The tank holds 3,000 gallons of water and is capable of pumping up to 500 gallons per minute.

“The recent wildland fires have shown just how important this type of apparatus is to rural areas,” said Fire Chief Bill Whealan. “It also will act as a backup water source for fire calls we respond to in West Richland.”

This water tender will help the fire district maintain its rating with the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau. This rating influences the cost of insurance policies for homeowners and businesses served by Benton County Fire District 4.

Two years ago, the fire district was able to improve its rating two class levels by contracting to use a water tender owned by the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife. The agency notified the fire district that the water tender was being taken out of service, which necessitated the purchase.

The fire district purchased a floor model water tender, which reduced the cost of the apparatus to \$240,000. It is expected to be delivered sometime in late October.

“Water tenders are expensive, but less than a fire engine which can cost as much as \$600,000,” said Chief Whealan.

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Benton County Fire District 4 provides Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to 17,000 people over 52 square miles, including the City of West Richland. Approximately 36 volunteer and career Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and six Paramedics respond to an average of 1,200 calls per year.