



Benton County

Fire Protection District No. 4
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West Richland, WA 99353
(509) 967-2945
www.bcfpd4.org

Benton County

Fire Protection District No. 2
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 10, 2015
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Benton County Fire Districts 4 and 2 awarded grant for new equipment



Benton County Fire District 4 Resident Firefighter Mason McCrea and Resident Firefighter Dalton Reents of Benton County Fire Protection District 2 demonstrate a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) used in rescue and training operations.

[West Richland, Wash.] – Benton County Fire District 4 and Benton County Fire Protection District 2 were awarded a grant for \$336,603 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The funding will pay to replace outdated Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (or “SCBAs”) for firefighters in both departments.

SCBAs supply firefighters with air while they are in smoky or otherwise hazardous conditions. This equipment should be replaced every 10 years or sooner depending on the amount of use it receives.

One unit can cost over \$6,000 to replace. The fire districts plan to purchase 53 SCBAs and 29 face masks with this grant and a 10 percent matching contribution.

The funding is part of FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. The primary goal of the AFG is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

This is the second AFG award for Benton County Fire District 4. In 2014, it received a \$45,000 grant to purchase thermal imaging cameras, which help firefighters see through smoke and darkness during rescue operations.

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. Visit us on the web at www.bfcd4.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BCFD4.

Benton County Fire Protection District 2 provides Fire and EMS to 10,000 people in and around Benton City, Wash. Learn more about the district at www.bcfpd2.org.

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