



## Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4

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West Richland, WA 99353  
(509) 967-2945  
[www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org)

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 7, 2017  
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#### **Another Clean Audit for Benton County Fire District 4**

WEST RICHLAND, WASH. —The Washington State Auditor's office conducted its exit interview on December 7, 2017 for Benton County Fire District 4. The audit, which covers fiscal years 2014-2016, came back with no findings. This is the sixth year of clean audits for the fire district.

"These audits are an independent check that show we are good stewards of public resources," said Chief Bill Whealan. "The state auditors are professionals who make sure we're transparent and accountable to our taxpayers."

Having a history of clean audits and strong financial safeguards can help the fire district earn a better rating with Standard and Poor's, Chief Whealan said. That rating helps lower borrowing costs when the fire district needs to finance capital purchases such as fire engines or build new stations. In the last bond offering, the fire district received an A+ rating with the organization.

The fire district is considering asking voters to approve a bond to build a fire station, and replace two engines that are past their usable lives. The fire district will share more information with the public sometime in the spring of 2018 for their consideration and comment.

To read the full reports, visit the Washington State Auditor's website at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/reportsearch>.

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*Benton County Fire District 4 provides fire and emergency medical service (EMS) to 17,000 people over 52 square miles, including the City of West Richland. Approximately 50 volunteer and career firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics respond to an average of 1,400 calls per year. Learn more about Fire District 4 at [www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org), "Like" us on Facebook at /BCFD4 or follow us on Twitter @BCFD4Info.*