

# Benton County Fire District **4** NEWS



FALL 2018

## CLOSE BEFORE YOU DOZE

### *And Change Those Smoke Alarm Batteries!*

Did you know that closing a bedroom door before you go to sleep can save your life?

Synthetic building materials in new home construction and open floor plans cause fires to burn faster and hotter. Doors provide a barrier to smoke, heat and fast-moving flames in case of a house fire. The simple task of closing the door to where you sleep can add minutes to your ability to escape. More information about the campaign and additional safety tips can be found at <https://closeyourdoor.org/>.

Close Before You Doze goes hand-in-hand with working smoke alarms in a home. These life-saving devices belong on the ceiling of every sleeping area, outside sleeping areas in hallways, and on every level of a home, including the basement.

Test smoke alarms once a month and change those batteries twice a year when Daylight Savings begins (in the spring) and ends (in the fall). If you have any trouble doing so, please contact us. Benton County Fire District 4 will help our residents change smoke detector batteries if they cannot do so on their own. We will also come out to do a safety evaluation and provide additional information on smoke detectors, if requested. To schedule assistance with smoke detectors, please contact Slita Bradley at Benton County Fire District 4 at (509) 967-2945 or [sbradley@bcfd4.org](mailto:sbradley@bcfd4.org).

## MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF BILL WHEALAN



We want to start this newsletter by saying thank you. Our community recently supported a bond to build a station and replace aging apparatus. The station and apparatus will balance our emergency response district-wide, reduce response times, and provide additional units to respond during back-to-back emergencies.

Tax revenue from the bond will start being collected in 2019. At this point, we are working with a finance team to secure the lowest interest rate possible. The next step is to finalize the site location for the station, develop engineering and architectural plans, and then put the project out to bid with contractors.

At the same time, our apparatus committee will meet to determine what features the replacement fire engines should have. Fire districts have different requirements for apparatus depending on their service areas, population, density, height of structures, and geography. After placing an order, it can take as long as 12-18 months for an engine to be assembled and delivered, which is why we're starting now.

We received very good news earlier this month that the bond issue will cost our taxpayers less than originally thought. We had estimated the bond at 28 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. However, it is now estimated at 25 cents per \$1,000. This three-cent difference means savings to our taxpayers!

Benton County Fire District 4 is in a strong position due to its financial policies, reserve accounts and community support for emergency services. This is reflected in our Standard and Poor's (S&P) Global rating of AA- Stable.

We look forward to reporting on the bond-funded projects as they make progress through regular updates in our newsletter, web site ([www.bcfd4.org](http://www.bcfd4.org)), Facebook page (BCFD4) and Twitter (@BCFD4Info). Thank you again for supporting emergency services for our community through Benton County Fire District 4.

2604 Bombing Range Rd.  
West Richland, WA 99353  
(509) 967-2945  
[www.bcfd4.org](http://www.bcfd4.org)  
[www.facebook.com/BCFD4](https://www.facebook.com/BCFD4)  
Twitter @BCFD4Info



## **Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4**

2604 Bombing Range Rd.  
West Richland, WA 99353  
(509) 967-2945

POP  
Imprint  
Esprit

### **Let's Get Social!**

Please like us on Facebook @BCFD4 or follow us on Twitter @BCFD4Info!

### **Disponible en Español**

Este boletín está disponible en español en nuestro sitio de Internet [www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org)

### **Board Meetings**

The Board of Fire Commissioners meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at 2604 Bombing Range Road, West Richland. All meetings are open to the public!

### **Station Tours**

We provide station tours on request to anyone who is interested in learning more about their local fire district - all ages welcome!

## **CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS**

Benton County Fire District 4 relies on paid and volunteer emergency personnel to provide emergency services. This staffing approach saves money, allows people to give back to their community and learn important skills that can transfer to home and work environments.

There are a variety of ways you can volunteer and BCFD4 provides all the needed training and gear. You have the option to serve as a firefighter, emergency medical technician, or firefighter/EMT. EMTs are in high demand right now as 72% of our calls are for medical emergencies.

Volunteers take many forms, such as retirees, students and working professionals. We thought you might like to meet one!

Monte Elmore has volunteered as a firefighter for the district for the last 20 years. He credits his interest in volunteering to his father, who also served as a volunteer firefighter for many years. Elmore recently retired from Battelle after 40 years as a research engineer and is still going strong. "I enjoy the friendships that I've made here, and plan to volunteer as long as I can," he said.



Monte Elmore

Elmore's work experience has benefitted fire district residents. If you're a recent retiree, we want you! Qualified volunteers are compensated for shifts and receive life insurance and retirement contributions.

### **Interested in Becoming a Firefighter or EMT?**

Please visit our web site to learn more and fill out an application.

Or, contact Captain Bob Shannon, Recruitment Officer at (509) 967-2945 or [bshannon@bcfd4.org](mailto:bshannon@bcfd4.org).