



## Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4

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[www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 9, 2016  
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#### **Benton County Fire District 4 celebrates Emergency Medical Service Week May 15-21** *New video highlights life-saving program*

West Richland, Wash. – Benton County Fire District 4 is joining fire agencies across the country to celebrate Emergency Medical Service Week May 15-21. The event seeks to bring awareness to the important role EMS programs and first responders play in saving lives in their communities.

Fire District 4 has produced a brief video about its fire and EMS program through a unique partnership with the Tri-Tech Skills Center. The fire district approached Mike Greif, an instructor who teaches Digital Arts and Filmmaking, for help with the project late last year. Greif made the production a class project, where students shot footage, edited, produced, and provided the voice-over narration.

“EMS is the most widely-used service we offer,” said Fire Chief Bill Whealan. “We are extremely grateful to Mike Greif and the Digital Art and Filmmaking students for helping us share how EMS saves lives in our community.”

In 2015, Fire District 4 responded to 1,322 calls for help – 63 percent of which were EMS-related. In fact, EMS calls have increased 57 percent for the fire district just since voters approved funding for the program in 2010.

The EMS levy has allowed the fire district to staff another station, which has reduced ambulance response times by three minutes on average. In addition to emergency personnel, funding is used for training and certifications, ambulances, maintenance, medical equipment, first aid supplies, and equipment replacement.

Fire District 4 funds the EMS program through a voter-approved levy, which expires at the end of the year. The Board of Fire Commissioners is asking voters to renew the levy during the August Primary Election at the same rate of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation and to remove the expiration date. That means the owner of a \$250,000 home would continue to pay approximately \$10.42 per month (or \$125 per year) for a 24-hour Paramedic response.

Information about Fire District 4’s levy renewal – including the video on its EMS program – can be found at [www.bcf4.org/ems-levy-renewal.html](http://www.bcf4.org/ems-levy-renewal.html).

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*Benton County Fire District 4 is proud to provide 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 responded to 1,322 calls in 2015, 63% of which were for Emergency Medical Service (EMS). 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.*