

Benton County Fire District **4** NEWS



SPRING 2019

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF BILL WHEALAN

I want to start this message by saying thank you for supporting our bond last year. The bond will build and equip a station, as well as replace three fire engines that are close to the end of their usable lives.

We don't say thank you nearly enough. The fact is that we could not save lives and property without your personal and financial support. Please know that we are truly grateful.

Benton County Fire District 4 is a proud "combination" department. That means we rely on career and volunteer emergency personnel to respond to 911 calls. Many fire districts are struggling to attract and retain volunteers. We have changed our volunteer program to accommodate your interests and schedule.

You can train to be a firefighter or provide support services for the district. Support service volunteers help with tasks around the fire station and support emergency personnel during large-scale incidents with medical care, food and shelter.

Some volunteers choose just to respond to medical calls as an emergency medical technician (EMT). This is a critical role as 72% of our calls are EMS-related. These volunteers ride along with our firefighters and paramedics during 911 calls. May 19-25, 2019 is EMS Week, and I would like to acknowledge their hard work to save lives in our community.

My point is that there is a role for everyone at Benton County Fire District 4. Our volunteers range in age from more than 60 years old to as young as 16. If you have time to give, we can put it to good use and appreciate you thinking about emergency services as a way to give back to your community.



BOND UPDATE

Planning, planning and more planning! We are currently working on finalizing the site location and design of our new station before placing orders for the equipment needed (Build-a-Truck example pictured here) to outfit it. We'll share news as soon as we have it via our local media, newsletter, website, and social media pages. If you'd like to receive updates on the progress of the Bond Projects direct to your inbox, please visit our website to sign up online at www.bcf4.org. Thank you for your support!



2604 Bombing Range Rd.
West Richland, WA 99353
(509) 967-2945
www.bcf4.org
www.facebook.com/BCFD4



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

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!

PREPARE NOW FOR WILDLAND FIRES

Benton County Fire District 4 is asking residents and businesses to prepare for wildland fire season now. Rain and snow have allowed brush to grow and die off quickly this spring, which provides fuel for wildland fires in the summer and fall months.

Firefighters and apparatus cannot go into areas where they have no egress options. Provide good access to your home and/or shop for allowing firefighting vehicles the ability to get onto your property as well as be able to turn around and leave.

Firefighters also need to be able to locate you in case of a 911 call. Have your address posted on your driveway entrance as well as your house.

Creating a "fire barrier" to homes and outbuildings is critical. Some simple tips to protect structures are as follows:

- Maintain a 30-foot defensible space around your home.
- Keep lawns well-watered.
- Prune or remove trees or shrubs that are too close to your home.

- Clean gutters and roofs of any debris regularly.
- Screen off crawl spaces, attics and decks to keep them free of debris that could be ignited by flying embers.
- Do NOT store combustibles, such as wood piles, under your deck or near your home.



These are just basic recommendations to help emergency vehicles access your home and other structures and be resistant to wildland fires. More information can be found on Benton County Fire District 4's web site at www.bcf4.org under Fire Prevention & Safety.

Fire District 4 also offers a free home inspection service to provide tailored recommendations to create a defensible space. Interested parties can contact any on duty officer at (509) 967-2945.