



Updated: February 2019

Benton County Fire District **4**



Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

2604 Bombing Range Rd., West Richland, WA 99353
(509) 967-2945 www.bcfld4.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/BCFD4



FAST FACTS

Provides Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to its residents.

- Responded to 1,748 emergency calls in 2018
 - Almost 18% more calls than 2017
 - 72% of our calls are for medical emergencies
- Serves 18,232 people over 52 square miles, including the City of West Richland
- Approximately 50 volunteer and career firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics
- Good steward of tax dollars
 - Maintain adequate reserves and operate under balanced budget
 - History of passing financial and accountability audits
 - Standard and Poor's awarded our fire district an AA- rating because of these strong financial practices
- Fire commissioners are elected by the community, and all board meetings are open to the public
- Daily emergency operations are funded by two levies paid through property taxes:
 - EMS levy: 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value (AV)
 - Fire levy provides the majority of funding: 1.50 per \$1,000 AV
 - These levies are sufficient for funding current emergency service levels for fire and EMS
- Funding for more costly items—such as apparatus or station improvements—is raised through bonds
 - In 2018, voters approved a bond to purchase apparatus and build a new station to improve our emergency response
 - Land acquired for new station at Keene Road and SR 224
 - Grateful for this support, and will report back regularly
- Started as an volunteer department in 1954
- The West Richland community is growing at a rapid rate
 - The population in West Richland has increased 115% in 20 years
- Rely on volunteers as well as paid and part-time personnel to respond to emergencies—we need your help!
 - Train as a firefighter, emergency medical technician, or firefighter/EMT
 - EMTs are in high demand right now
 - Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community and it helps keep property taxes low compared to other staffing models