



Spokane County
FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT 8

Board of Fire
Commissioners

Lee Boling

Greg Hesse

Dennis Ross

Fire Chief

William Walkup

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- *Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Academy 2010*
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FIRE 8 FLYER

Winter 2010

A Message from Chief Walkup

On behalf of the Board of Fire Commissioners and the fine members of this organization, welcome to the winter 2010 edition of our newsletter, the *Fire 8 Flyer*. I trust that you will find this publication informative and of value. We have heard that you would like to hear more about what is taking place in the Fire District. We have listened to your comments and as a result have produced this communication.

This Fire District had many accomplishments over the last year, including keeping our promise to you to improve our emergency medical services. We implemented an Advanced Life Support program as a result of your support for our last ballot measure in 2008. This program has had a number of significant successes since implementation and we have featured two of those events inside this newsletter that demonstrate the remarkable skills of our responders.

We also remain committed to our pledge to you to be good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. We successfully refinanced a bond previously approved by voters in 2000. This refunding will save you over \$480,000 on the remaining 2.5 million in outstanding debt. Additional information on this refunding is included in this flyer, as well as on our website, www.scf8.org. We understand these are difficult economic times and we have made deliberate decisions to not request additional revenues in 2009 and 2010. Our revenues declined with the reduction in property values and we have made the necessary adjustments.

This agency is committed to providing you with high quality, cost effective services in your time of need. We are ever mindful of the past, while keeping our vision on the future. We understand that we all currently face some uncertain challenges.

I want you to know that I am extremely proud of the fine women and men that make up this agency. Everyday they execute their responsibilities flawlessly to provide YOU – our customers, with great services. Please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Holiday/Winter Safety

Help establish SAFETY as your holiday tradition! Here are a few facts and helpful safety tips for you and your family.

Did you know?

- During 2006-2009, 14,800 structure fires were caused by candles, which resulted in 160 civilian deaths.
- Every year over 200 structure fires are caused by Christmas trees.
- Two out of five Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

See how you can prevent holiday fires inside this issue...



**Board of Fire
Commissioners
Meetings:**

**Second Tuesday
Of Each Month
6:00 p.m.**

**Station 82
12100 E Palouse Hwy
Valleyford, WA**

**Do you want to
Volunteer for your
District?**

**Contact us for
information
regarding
Volunteer
Opportunities.**

**509-926-6699
or
www.scf8.org**

HOLIDAY/WINTER SAFETY (CONT.)

How you can prevent holiday fires...

- Make sure all trees are at least three feet away from any heat source, such as fireplaces, radiators, candles, or heat vents.
- Look for a “Fire Resistant” label on all artificial trees. “Fire Resistant” does not mean it will not catch fire, but it will *resist* burning.
- Keep cut and live trees well watered.
- Unplug decorations before going to bed.
- Blow out all candles when you leave the room. Avoid using candles in the bedroom or other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy and know how to use it.
- Make sure you have a working smoke detector near each bedroom and on each floor of your house.

For more holiday / winter safety tips visit:

www.holidaysafety.org

www.usfa.fema.gov

District Graduates 18 Volunteer Firefighters

Eighteen new dedicated volunteer firefighters recently graduated from the District’s 2010 recruit academy.

Our volunteers come from different neighborhoods and have varied backgrounds, but they - and all of our members - share one commitment: to Protect, Serve, and Educate the citizens of Fire District 8.

The recruit academy consisted of over 97 hours of training delivered during 10 weeks of evenings and weekend days.



Under the direction of Training Chief Tom Hatley, several instructors - paid and volunteer - gave their time and talent to train the new recruits in a wide spectrum of tasks that included fire behavior, rescue techniques, ladder operations, hazardous materials, and building construction.

Chief Hatley also ensured that a significant portion of the recruit academy’s costs were recovered through the Washington State Fire Marshal’s Basic Firefighter Training Reimbursement Program.

Visit us at: www.scf8.org



**Proudly
Serving Your
Neighborhood:**

Moran Prairie
Glenrose
Hangman
Valleyford
Freeman
Mica
Painted Hills
Ponderosa
Saltese

Fire District 8 Members Save Lives in our Community

Members of your Fire District were honored by the Board of Fire Commissioners and the Spokane County Sheriffs' Office for their contributions in two separate life saving events.

In February 2010, EMTs and Paramedics of Fire District 8 were dispatched to a report of a car in a swimming pool off Glenrose Road. Upon arrival, District 8 members entered the water and pulled Dr. Herb Robinson from his vehicle. Dr. Robinson had no pulse at the time and was not breathing. Advanced Life Support was administered, his pulse and breathing were restored, and he was transported to a local hospital.

Dr. Robinson joined District 8 members in September to share his story of survival and a biography of his life and recovery.



Early last summer Mr. Chris Desborough was found at his home with no pulse or respirations. EMTs and Paramedics from the Ponderosa's Station 84 arrived in approximately four minutes and administered Advanced Life Support treatment.

Mr. Desborough was transported to a local hospital, treated, and released. He later joined District 8 members for a celebration of his successful rescue.



Heart Attacks generally start slowly with mild discomfort. Often people are unaware of what is wrong and wait too long before getting help. Some common signs of a Heart Attack are:

- Chest Discomfort
- Shortness of Breath
- Discomfort in other parts of the upper body
- Sweating
- Nausea



**Spokane County
FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT 8**

**PO Box 345
12100 E. Palouse Hwy.
Valleyford, WA 99036**

Phone: 509-926-6699

To PROTECT , SERVE, EDUCATE

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

**Spokane County Fire District No. 8
Saves Taxpayer's Money**

*District takes advantage of historically low interest rates.
\$480,000 in taxpayer savings over 10 year life of bond issue.*

Your Fire District took advantage of historically low interest rates in the municipal bond market and completed the refinancing of its 2000 voter approved bonds.

The refinancing will reduce debt repayment costs by \$480,000 over the remaining 10 year life of the bonds. The District was able to replace the 5.51% average interest rate currently paid on its outstanding 2000 debt with a new rate of 2.31%.

In addition to the low interest rate, the District achieved a one step upgrade in bond rating to "AA" from Standard & Poor's, the second highest grade from the top level of the "AA" category. This high-grade rating, the highest for any fire district in Spokane County, was based on the District's manageable debt level, reasonable fund reserves, established fiscal policies, positive and healthy community relationship and superior management.

"We continue to seek ways to be effective and efficient with taxpayer funds" said Fire Chief William Walkup. "We know our residents are concerned about the economy and we felt these cost reduction efforts were important. The District chose to enter the bond market now so that taxpayer savings could be achieved while interest rates are still at generational lows."

Visit us at: www.scfd8.org