



WINTER 2022



YEARS OF SERVICE
1947-2022

**FIRE DISTRICT 8
proudly serves the
communities of:**

- Moran Prairie
- Glenrose
- Hangman Hills
- Valleyford
- Bella Vista
- Mica
- Painted Hills
- Ponderosa
- Saltese
- Morningside Heights

IMPORTANCE OF FIRE PREVENTION

Today's homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as two minutes (or even less time) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds.

1. Plan your escape
2. Test your smoke alarms
3. Choose outside meeting place
4. Practice home escape plan

www.scf8.org
509-926-6699



A Message from the Chief

Hello, I hope this newsletter finds you settling into winter and enjoying the holiday season! As you will see in this newsletter, we are excited to bring back the Santa Float and engage with our community in-person once again this year.

This winter you will have the opportunity vote on Proposition 1—a Maintenance and Operations (M & O) replacement levy that will appear on your February 2023 ballot. The levy will continue current funding to help maintain current operations as well as provide funding to improve future fire and emergency medical services (EMS). **This is not a new tax.** The levy is a replacement for the current M & O levy expiring this year. I am excited to share more about Proposition 1 with you via the district website, social media and scheduled in-person informational meetings. The replacement levy will allow us to:

- Keep each fire station staffed 24 hours a day/365 days a year.
- Continue staffing each fire station with a paramedic firefighter with advanced lifesaving skills that go beyond the emergency medical training that every firefighter has.
- Recruit and retain valuable firefighters and paramedic firefighters.
- Keep our promise of increased response reliability. State and federal laws restrict us from taking certain firefighting steps until at least four firefighters are on scene. The levy funds enough firefighters to meet those legal requirements and provide more reliable responses.
- Enhance volunteer programs.

On behalf of all of us at Fire District 8, I wish you a safe and joyful holiday season.



Lonnie Rash, Fire Chief, SCFD8

If you have any questions or suggestions about how we can serve you better, please email me at lrash@scfd8.org or give me a call on my cell phone at 509-370-9801.

MEET PIERCE THE DISTRICT 8 THERAPY DOG

The history of animals assisting in the treatment people who have experienced mental or physical illness, grief, or trauma goes as far back as the Middle Ages. Recently, through formal research, training, and certification, therapy dogs



now assist hospital patients, those suffering depression or other mental illnesses, as well as both the victims and the first responders who have experienced trauma as the result of a fire, natural disaster, or medical emergency.

The concept was introduced locally by SCFD 8's Chaplain Aaron McNally. Five years ago, Chaplain McNally experienced a defining event that introduced him to therapy dogs and inspired him to consider how we care for and support each other under trying circumstances.

"I had a conversation with a dog handler that was there with a therapy dog and the handler described what the dog could do. He shared multiple stories of success, in providing emotional

support and therapy. And so, the seed was really planted that day." The result was introduction of a therapy dog program to help take care of the District 8 residents and responders first, and others whenever possible.

After some brainstorming conversations with SCFD 8's Assistant Chief Chris Wyrobek—who was an advocate from the start, the value of the program was clear. Within a short time, Aaron was able to assemble the components he needed to begin the process.

"I stumbled upon a conversation on social media where a couple of friends

CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE

Santa Claus and Your Firefighters could be Coming to Your Neighborhood Soon!

The jolly old elf is temporarily trading in his sleigh for a big red fire engine! Listen and watch for Santa as he rides through your neighborhood along with your District 8 firefighters.

For a complete schedule of Santa's visits, go to scfd8.org or find us on Glympse.



SANTA CLAUS IS VISITING DECEMBER 8-11 AND DECEMBER 15-18

Check the schedule daily for any potential changes due to unforeseen circumstances.



PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY ON WINTER ROADS!

Fire Flyer

Fire 8 Flyer is a publication of
Spokane County Fire District 8

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YEARS OF SERVICE
CELEBRATION

Lonnie Rash, Fire Chief
Lee C. Boling, Commissioner
Greg Hesse, Commissioner
Andy Rorie, Commissioner

Would you like to receive the Fire 8 Flyer and other correspondence via email?

Send your name and email address to
admin@scfd8.org to join our mailing list.

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MEET PIERCE THE DISTRICT 8 THERAPY DOG (cont'd)

were looking for dogs and someone chimed in that their dog was having puppies soon. I contacted the breeder, and we made a connection and had a few conversations. She eventually decided to donate Pierce, because she was excited by the idea of bringing a therapy dog to the area."

"A few months later, we began working with Legacy Canine in Post Falls. Our trainer, Bailey, had trained her own dog to do therapy service work with Kootenai Healthcare in north Idaho. We went in with a lot of confidence, knowing that she had some success with a therapy dog training program that included basic obedience skills and therapy skills as well. It

was important that he could be trained to be calm and comfortable around loud alarms, noisy fire trucks, and what can sometimes be a chaotic environment."

"District 8 approved, funded, and created a policy for the therapy dog program. I'd served District 8 as chaplain for about nine years. Two years ago, I began serving with Spokane Valley Fire Department as a chaplain as well. Spokane Valley has recognized everything that District 8 has done and has given me the go ahead to use Pierce as a therapy dog as I respond in situations where it could be necessary or useful."

"We recently connected with the Spokane Police Department who was going through a similar process. Their handler and dog joined the same agency for first responder therapy dogs that Pierce and I belong to. That dog will be certified soon and will be serving police officers here in Spokane. Pierce was the 50th dog certified in the country. Since then, they've certified 20 more. It's great to know that both first responders and the people that we're called to serve are going to have access to this kind of a resource."

At a formal pinning ceremony on September 13, 2022, Pierce received a badge for completing his training.