



BENTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 4 NEWS

SUMMER 2025

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FIRE CHIEF PAUL CARLYLE



I enjoy communicating with you a few times a year through our newsletter. Life in emergency services is nonstop, which makes it all the more meaningful to slow down and connect with you through these updates.

First, thank you! Your support helped us replace a grass truck from 1997. This type of emergency apparatus is critical to help fight wildland fires. We also have been able to staff a third fire station. Read on in the newsletter to learn more.

I also want to thank the West Richland Chamber of Commerce. BCFD4 hosted the Community Easter Egg Hunt many years ago, and as the event grew, it became difficult for us to manage while also responding to emergency calls. We're proud to still play a part, but we're especially grateful to the Chamber for stepping up and carrying this beloved tradition forward.

Finally, we've seen a couple of concerning trends in our recent emergency calls:

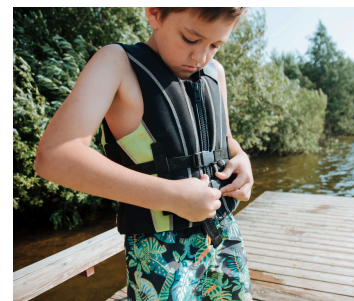
- **School crossings** – Please slow down. Every year, we respond to crashes involving children. These incidents have a lasting impact—on the child, their family, our first responders, and yes, the driver. Speeding or distracted driving just isn't worth the risk.
- **Water safety** – As the weather warms up, more people head to the river or lake. Please take a moment to read the water safety article in this newsletter. A few simple precautions can make all the difference.

That's all from me. As always, feel free to reach out with questions at contactus@bcfd4.org or 509-967-2945.

MAKE A SPLASH THE SMART WAY

Whether you're boating, swimming, or just dipping your toes in, we want you to have fun and stay safe! Here are a few water-wise tips to keep in mind:

- Wear a lifejacket. Yes, even if you are a strong swimmer! Lifejackets save lives whether you're on a boat or in the water.
- Never swim solo. Bring a buddy! It's safer and way more fun.
- Watch for hazards. Stay clear of strong currents, deep drop-offs, and hidden obstacles.
- Be wary of cold water. Lakes and rivers can be icy cold, even in summer! Cold shock or hypothermia can sneak up fast.
- Designate a water watcher. Drowning is quick and silent. Always have someone keeping an eye on swimmers.



Need a lifejacket? Benton County Fire District 4 has loaners available! Give us a call at 509-967-2945 to arrange a pickup time and location. Let's make every adventure a safe one!



Benton County Fire District #4
2604 Bombing Range Rd.
West Richland, WA 99353
509-967-2945

STATION 410 STAFFED FULL TIME BEGINNING THIS SUMMER

Benton County Fire District 4 is always looking for ways to enhance emergency services and better serve the community. That commitment is driving a new effort to staff Station 410 on a full-time basis—something the district has not been able to do since 2020.

Station 410, located on the edge of the district's response area, is BCFD4's oldest station, built in 1977. It was originally staffed until Station 430 opened four years ago. Since then, 410 has gone unstaffed, but thanks to recent hiring efforts and ongoing facility upgrades, that's about to change.

"We've been steadily building our team and investing in our facilities to make this possible," said Deputy Chief Dan Drayton. "Staffing Station 410 means faster response times, better coverage for critical areas, and more support during the busy wildfire season."

The station is being outfitted with updated living spaces, improved work areas, a water fill station, ice machine, and better insulation to reduce dust and debris from nearby fields.

If remaining renovation projects stay on track, the district anticipates opening the station by June 1.

Staffing the station will improve emergency response to areas like Harrington Road and other high-call locations in the district. It also provides needed redundancy during times of high call volume, allowing BCFD4 to rely less on mutual aid from neighboring agencies.

Thanks to the generous support of our community, the district has been able to add three new firefighter positions each year. That consistent growth in staffing has made it possible to bring Station 410 back online.

"Everyone sees the value in reopening this station," said Drayton. "It gives us more flexibility when staff are out, and more importantly, it gets help to our residents faster when they need it most."

Once staffed, Station 410 will be capable of deploying a fire engine, ambulance, water tender, or wildland engine—strengthening BCFD4's readiness and service to the community year-round.