

Benton County Fire District **4** NEWS



SUMMER 2020

MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY CHIEF PAUL CARLYLE



I'm Deputy Chief Paul Carlyle and filling in for Chief Whealan, who is on medical leave. He wants me to convey that he is doing well, and thank everyone for their good wishes for a speedy recovery.

In the meantime, I want to share a few items with you in my message for Benton County Fire District 4's newsletter. First, we continue to make good progress on the fire station at the west side of our district. We expect that to be completed in December, and look forward to having an open house with our community to celebrate, hopefully in person.

Second, Benton County Fire District 4 is asking voters to consider a 15-cent Fire Levy lid lift during the August 4 Primary Election. The lid lift would fund three full-time firefighters to respond to higher call volumes.

It's no surprise to anyone that our community has experienced a significant amount of growth. Add to that fact that our population is aging and you can understand why call volumes have increased an average of eight percent a year. (Last year was almost 13 percent. The 10-year cumulative total is 78.3 percent.)

The nuts and bolts of the request is that we need more full-time firefighters to respond to calls. That will improve response times, but it also will help strengthen our volunteer firefighter program.

Benton County Fire District 4 happened because a group of concerned residents came together in 1954 to save lives and property. The volunteer program is important to the history and tradition of our community, and also benefits our taxpayers through lower personnel costs. The issue is that our volunteers often have full-time jobs and families in addition to the Fire District. Three additional full-time firefighters will give them some breathing room.

The lid lift would return our fire levy from \$1.35 to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. That 15-cents would be an additional \$3.75 per month for the average homeowner. This is not a new tax. Voters last approved a Fire Levy of \$1.50 in 2014. More information can be found on our website at www.bcf4.org. I'm also available to answer questions at (509) 967-2945 or p Carlyle@bcfd4.org. Thank you for considering our request.

2604 Bombing Range Rd.
West Richland, WA 99353
(509) 967-2945
www.bcf4.org
www.facebook.com/BCFD4
Twitter @BCFD4Info



Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4

2604 Bombing Range Rd.
West Richland, WA 99353
(509) 967-2945

POP
Imprint
Minuteman
Press

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!

WE NEED YOU TO VOLUNTEER!



Benton County Fire District 4 relies on full-time and volunteer firefighters, paramedics, and emergency

medical technicians (EMTs) to respond to calls. Interested in giving back to your community, but not in responding to emergency calls? Consider joining one of our skilled volunteer teams, which includes logistics, administration, human resources, emotional and spiritual counseling, finance, communications, and maintenance.

We want your help, and encourage you to visit our website at <https://www.bcf4.org/vfe.html> to learn more. Captain Bob Shannon also is available to answer questions at (509) 967-2945 or bshannon@bcfd4.org. Thank you!

SUMMER SAFETY

All of us are enjoying the summer weather and all it has to offer. Benton County Fire District 4 has a few basic safety tips that we hope you'll use.

- Hydration – Drink water every 20 minutes when out in hot temperatures to keep your body hydrated and your core cool.
- Sunscreen – Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen for both UVB and UVA rays. Wearing sunscreen is important even if it's not a hot sunny day.
- Boating – Wear a life vest at all times – even if you can swim.
- Swimming – Never swim alone in a pool or any other body of water. Use the buddy system! If someone is struggling, have a flotation device to throw to them before jumping in to help.
- Grilling - Keep children and pets at least three feet from the grill area. Never leave your grill unattended. Keep your grill clean by removing grease buildup. Locate the grill away from the house or anything that could catch fire.