



Benton County Fire District

4 NEWS

SUMMER 2022

Message from Fire Chief Paul Carlyle



Warm weather means many people are enjoying our local rivers and lakes. Benton County Fire District 4 has already rescued two people from the Yakima River, and we anticipate more to come.

Please take a minute to read the article in this newsletter about water safety, and learn more about protecting yourself and loved ones this summer.

Swift water rescue is just one emergency program that Benton 4 provides. This is possible because of your personal and financial support of the work that we do – and we are grateful. Funding provides the emergency personnel, training, apparatus, and equipment needed for a positive outcome to accidents, fires and medical emergencies.

Speaking of medical emergencies, Benton 4 has a measure on the August Primary Election ballot

Enjoying the Outdoors, Safely

Heading out for a day hike, river float, or weeklong camping trip? Your first responders want to make sure you do so safely, and have what you need should an emergency arise.

First, always travel with a First Aid kit. You can buy one or put together your own. Travel with enough food and water for the activity planned—and stay hydrated! It's important to remember, that even if you are just planning to float the river for a couple of hours, be prepared for the unexpected. And, please, always wear a lifejacket when on the water.

asking voters to return the EMS levy to the previously voter-approved rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Call volumes increased 22% in 2021 compared to the year before. EMS is the emergency service our community relies on most, accounting for 62% of all calls.

Emergency calls actually increase during an economic correction. The number of accidents, fires, and medical emergencies climb higher as people cope with stress or uncertainty. We also provide a safety net for residents who may be struggling. There's more information in this newsletter, and on our website at www.bcf4.org.

Benton 4 has always delivered on promised projects funded by fire and EMS levy lid lifts. We also report back to our community as we accomplish these projects. We appreciate your consideration of our request, and I welcome your questions at pcarlyle@bcfd4.org or 509-967-2945.

If you need to call for help, don't rely on cell phone tracking information to provide a location. It can be unavailable, or unreliable. Be prepared to provide location markers if a road is not nearby. Note tall landmarks, bridges, waterways crossed, etc. and carry a compass to give location information to responders, if needed.

Can't get a signal? Consider purchasing a Personal Locator Beacon or Satellite Emergency Notification Device in case you need to call 9-1-1 in areas without reception.



Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4

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

POP
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Lifejacket Loaners

Did you know that we have a lifejacket loaner program? Call us at (509) 967-2945 to borrow one. We want you to stay safe on the water!

EMS Lid Lift on August Ballot

Benton 4 provides the highest level of emergency medical care called “Advanced Life Support” using highly-skilled paramedics. Voters approved funding the program with an EMS levy of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2016. The EMS levy has fallen to \$0.35/\$1,000 since that time.

Benton 4 is asking voters to return the EMS levy to the same amount during the August 2, 2022 Primary Election ballot. This EMS levy “lid lift” would cost the average homeowner (defined as a house with an assessed value of \$350,000) an additional \$52.50 per year, or \$4.38 per month. Our financial approach is conservative, asking taxpayers for smaller, incremental changes to fund specific items instead of larger increases that cause sticker shock.

Lid lifts allow a fire district to keep up with rising call volumes and the cost to provide service. For example, funding from the EMS lid lift would be used to hire three additional firefighter/paramedics or emergency medical technicians to respond to calls. This will put another medical unit in service and aid in responding to concurrent calls, which are increasing.



More information on the EMS lid lift can be found at www.bcf4.org. Thank you!

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@BCFD4Info!

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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. in
person at Station 420—
2604 Bombing Range Rd West,
Richland WA 99353