



# Benton County Fire District

# 4 NEWS

FALL-WINTER 2022

## Message from Fire Chief Paul Carlyle



I love this time of year. I spend time reflecting on what I am most grateful for and wanted to share my list with you.

**Community.** We have worked hard over the past several years to improve communication with the residents and businesses we serve. Our Board of Fire Commissioners and I firmly believe the time we take to be transparent about how we are funded (a fire and EMS levy), what it costs to provide service and our challenges is the right thing to do.

**You have responded.** Your support for Benton County Fire District 4 – both personally and financially – has allowed us to keep up with higher call volumes and meet the growing demand for emergency services in our community. Thank you.

## EMS Funding and Firefighter Training in Budget

In November, the Board of Fire Commissioners approved the budget for 2023. The budget includes funding for additional emergency medical personnel, firefighter training, and a new fire engine.

The voter-approved EMS levy lid lift in August will be used to hire three additional firefighter/paramedics and emergency medical technicians. This will allow Benton County 4 to put another medical unit in service to respond to overlapping calls, which are increasing.

**Family.** There are families we are born into and those we create. I am grateful for my family, but kind of think they are stuck with me. The family that we have created at Benton County Fire District 4 sustains me in many ways, as well. All of us could choose to walk away, but we stick together in good times and bad, united in the common goal of serving our community.

**People who work or volunteer for our fire district.** I have worked in the fire service for my entire career. As your fire chief, I want you to know that staff and personnel at BCFD4 are the most dedicated and compassionate group of individuals that I have ever seen. If this is part of your value system, I encourage you to apply to join our team online at [www.BCFD4.org](http://www.BCFD4.org).

From all of us at Benton County Fire District 4, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season. As always, I welcome your questions at [pcarlyle@bcfd4.org](mailto:pcarlyle@bcfd4.org) or 509-967-2945. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Other 2023 budget improvements include firefighter training, training props, and a new fire engine to replace a 25-year-old engine that has reached the end of its usable life. Thanks to community support, Benton County 4 will pay cash for the engine as opposed to financing it through a loan, which would have cost taxpayers more due to interest payments.

Benton County 4 is accountable to you and is primarily funded by a fire levy and EMS levy. The combined total is capped at \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.



## Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4

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

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### Prevent Heating-related Fires This Winter

Home fires happen more often during the winter months than any other time of the year. Please:

- Have your heating system checked annually and regularly maintained.
- Ensure you have working smoke alarms installed, as well as a carbon monoxide monitor.
- Have yearly chimney inspections and cleanings.
- Change your furnace filter as recommended, or twice a year.

## Operation Candy Cane on December 10



Benton 4 will be holding its annual food drive to help our neighbors in need this holiday season. Santa and his firefighter helpers will be at Flat Top Park on Saturday, December 10 from 4-8 p.m., with decorated fire trucks to collect donations and pass out candy canes. In order to receive a candy cane, please donate an item of nonperishable food.

Food will be distributed to families in need, with assistance from West Richland Chamber of Commerce and Operation We Care-Tri-Cities. More about the food drive can be found at [www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org).

### Let's Get Social!

Please like us on Facebook  
[@BCFD4](https://www.facebook.com/BCFD4) or follow us on Twitter  
[@BCFD4Info!](https://twitter.com/BCFD4Info)

### Disponible en Español

Este boletín está disponible en español en nuestro sitio de Internet [www.bcf4.org](http://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