



# Benton County Fire District

# 4 NEWS

SUMMER 2023

## Message from Fire Chief Paul Carlyle



I want to start this communication by saying **THANK YOU**. Benton County Fire District 4 is blessed by the support of our community to save lives and property.

We cannot do this life-saving work without your personal and financial support.

Daily emergency operations are funded by a fire levy (\$1.50/\$1,000) and an EMS levy (\$0.50/\$1,000) paid through property taxes. Over time, levy rates fall as property values rise to limit the Fire District to roughly the same amount of revenue per year plus a 1% increase (or any other amount approved by voters). Occasionally, we ask our community for a "lid lift" to return a levy to an amount previously approved by voters. Lid lifts help us keep up with higher call volumes and increasing costs for service.

## Local Academy for Recruits Saves Taxpayers Money

Benton County Fire District 4 always looks for ways to stretch taxpayer dollars further. For example, Benton 4 started a local firefighter academy to qualify emergency personnel to serve the community.

There are three recruits who passed the stringent testing process to serve residents and enter the academy. Hiring three additional emergency personnel was a funding promise made during the last levy lid lift approved by voters.

To send recruits to the state fire academy would have cost over \$27,000. Instead, Benton 4

The most recent funding request in 2022 restored our Emergency Service Medical (EMS) levy to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. There was a problem with Benton County that has prevented us from receiving approximately \$500,000 for the EMS program. This has impacted our ability to hire one firefighter and an emergency response unit.

We have always delivered on the promises made to our taxpayers for any levy increase. That's why we are concerned and communicating with you so you understand the issue.

In the meantime, there is still great news to share and you are part of that so read on! Thank you for supporting Benton County Fire District 4. I always welcome your questions at (509) 967-2945 or [pcarlyle@bcfd4.org](mailto:pcarlyle@bcfd4.org).



developed its own curriculum, which keeps them local to respond to calls and costs only \$5,000.

Over nine weeks recruits learn fire suppression, hose handling, auto extrication and emergency medical techniques. The three firefighters graduate on June 2 and will start serving our community soon after. Thank you to our community for making this milestone possible!



**Benton County**  
**Fire Protection District No. 4**  
2604 Bombing Range Rd.  
West Richland, WA 99353  
(509) 967-2945

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## Help Prevent Wildland Fires!

Please do your part this season to lower the risk of fire:

- Dispose of smoking materials and used matches in an airtight container or cup of water.
- Keep lighters and matches out of the reach of children.
- Check burn restrictions and weather conditions before starting a fire - never when it's windy
- Don't park a hot car or lawn mower/tractor on dry grass.



## Lifejacket Loaner Program

Benton County Fire District 4 is one of several agencies that offer loaner lifejackets. Please call Slita SuperAwesome at (509) 967-2945 to arrange a pick-up time/location. Due to station renovations/repairs underway at Station 420, please call in advance so we can have lifejacket ready for you to pick-up. We cannot accommodate drop-ins this summer as Station 420 is not open to the public during construction.



© National Safe Boating Council

We want you to stay safe on the water! Please keep these tips in mind:

- Always wear a lifejacket. Even if you're a good swimmer! On a boat, or in the water, lifejackets save lives.
- Never swim alone. Always swim with a buddy.
- Avoid areas with swift currents, sudden drops, and other obstacles.
- Cold temperatures in lakes, seas, and rivers can shock your system and cause involuntary inhalation of water, or quickly lead to hypothermia.
- Remember that drowning is fast and silent - listening isn't enough. Designate a water watcher anytime someone is swimming.

### 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](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 7920 W Van Giesen St, West Richland, WA 99353. *This is a temporary meeting location during Station 420 renovation.* Please check [www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org) for updates.