



# Benton County Fire District

# 4 NEWS

FALL/WINTER 2023

## Message from Fire Chief Paul Carlyle



I want to start by saying thank you for your personal and financial support of Benton County Fire District 4. We could not save lives and property without the support of our community.

including new flooring, a kitchen and update bathrooms in sleeping quarters. These projects are important to attract and retain volunteers, who help reduce labor costs for taxpayers.

Voters also approved an EMS levy lid lift. As promised, we hired three full-time firefighter/paramedics with these funds. Paramedics have more than 1,000 hours of training in crisis medical care. That training provides the highest level of pre-hospital care possible called "Advanced Life Support."

Your support, investment and confidence in Benton 4 means that our community receives the highest level of fire, EMS and an all-hazards response (such as motor vehicle accidents or hazardous material spills) available in the state. This is the best Christmas present we could ever ask for.

We have much to be grateful for this holiday season. I welcome your questions anytime at 509-967-2945 or [pcarlyle@bcfd4.org](mailto:pcarlyle@bcfd4.org).

With that in mind, I want to report back on promised projects from your support for a bond and a lid lift for Emergency Medical Service (EMS). All promised projects have been delivered on budget.

The bond you supported built Station 430 and purchased replacement apparatus, including two fire engines and a wildland fire brush truck. The new station has improved response times. Wildland fires continue to be a huge concern in our area. Having modern apparatus is critical to putting out these grass fires before they compromise homes.

The bond also allowed us to modernize Station 420,

## Keep Warm and Fire Safe This Winter

If you heat your home with a fireplace, please make sure it is a safe heating source by following a few tips:

- Have your chimney inspected annually by a licensed chimney sweep. A professional is able to remove the hazardous accumulation of combustible creosote or soot and get rid of any nests, leaves and other fallen debris that may be blocking your chimney.
- Keep flammable items off mantel and hearth.
- Use a metal screen in front of your fireplace to keep burning embers from popping out.
- Use seasoned or cured wood only. Wood that is seasoned for at least three to six months will produce a hot fire and release less creosote.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. It produces an odorless and deadly gas called carbon monoxide.
- Extinguish a fire completely before leaving the room or going to sleep. Keep the damper open until the ashes are completely cold.
- Dispose of ashes in a metal container with a lid.
- Always make sure you have working smoke alarms on each level of your home, outside of sleeping areas, and in each room used for sleep.



## Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4

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

POP  
Imprint  
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Press



### In Case of a Power Outage:

- Never use a generator, gas-heater or grill inside your home, garage or basement.
- Keep generators & grills outside, away from windows and doors to allow for proper ventilation.
- Make sure that you have ample flashlights and batteries on hand. Candles are a fire-risk!

## Operation Candy Cane Food Drive

*Firefighters collect food donations for community members in need at Flat Top Park*

Benton County Fire District 4 will be hosting its 22nd annual food drive to help those in need this holiday season. Please bring a non-perishable food item to Flat Top Park on **December 16 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.** Your local firefighters and Santa's helpers will be on hand with decorated fire trucks to accept your donations and pass out candy canes.

All donated food will be distributed to families in need with the help of Operation We Care – Tri-Cities.

Firefighters will also be accepting donations of non-perishable food items at Fire Station 420 through December 18. Fire Station 420 is located at 2604 Bombing Range Road. If you have questions, please call us at 509-967-2945.

### 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 5:00 p.m. in person at Station 420 – 2604 Bombing Range Road, West Richland. Please check [www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org) for agendas, meeting minutes or updates.

