

THE GAZETTE



News and information for the communities we serve

SPRING 2017



» A Message from your Fire Chief, Bryan Collins

Welcome to the Spring 2017 edition of the Spokane Valley Fire Department (SVFD) Gazette. This spring finds our agency busily working on a number of fronts to assure that the residents and visitors of the greater Spokane Valley continue to receive exceptional, cost-effective fire and rescue services.

The **Liberty Lake Station 3** relocation project which was approved in the 2017 budget, is now underway and progressing nicely. This station relocation will allow the Department to keep up with actual and projected growth in the Liberty Lake and Spokane Valley areas.

I am excited to report that SVFD has been **re-rated to a Class 2 Department** after an extensive review by the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) of our firefighting capabilities. We are now one of only five agencies in the State of Washington and the only one east of

the Cascades, to receive this outstanding rating. Departments are rated on a scale of 1-10 with one being exemplary fire protection. The majority of fire departments fall between 4 and 7. This great news means the rate you pay for fire insurance is among the lowest in the State and many homeowners and businesses should see a reduction in their annual fire insurance premiums.

Operationally, we continue to evaluate our response capabilities as it relates to population growth within our boundaries. I am pleased to announce that as a result of this analysis, SVFD has placed **Medic 7**, an "alternative response unit", into service to respond to medical emergencies for a trial period. During the next six months, we will closely study Medic 7 and its impact on response times, unit availability and cost effectiveness.

Lastly, if you are a registered Spokane County voter you should have received a ballot in the mail for the April 25 Special Election which includes **Proposition 1**, a sales tax *renewal* measure. Over the past 10

years, this funding has paid for a major upgrade to the Emergency Communications and 911 system. This upgrade created interoperability between law enforcement, fire and EMS agencies and allows all of us to communicate during emergencies. The funding from this measure also restored Crime Check which allows citizens to call a non-emergency number to report crimes and non-urgent law enforcement issues. Please take some time to review this ballot measure and understand what it funds, how the funds are spent and the accountability measures put in place to ensure transparency.

Be safe and have a wonderful spring and summer!

~ CHIEF BRYAN COLLINS



Learn more @ SpokaneValleyFire.com

LOWER YOUR FIRE INSURANCE PREMIUM

Property owners located in the **Cities of Liberty Lake, Millwood and Spokane Valley** are now eligible for lower fire insurance premiums. Effective April 1, 2017, Spokane Valley Fire Department has achieved a new and improved "Class 2" fire protection rating. This means all home and business owners in these three cities are encouraged to contact their insurance carrier and ask for a policy evaluation.

SAVE THESE DATES!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR 22 - GREENACRES FIRE STATION #10 OPEN HOUSE @ 11 AM - 3 PM

Flex your muscles and get hands-on with our new ladder truck. Participate in a fire service tradition - the "Push In" of Ladder 10 into the bay at **12 Noon!** Try on firefighter gear, squirt a fire hose and tour the station. Enjoy treats and beverages!

JUN 10 - UNIVERSITY FIRE STATION #1 OPEN HOUSE @ 11 AM - 3 PM

Join us for a free, fun-filled day of fire station and engine tours, photo opportunities and other family activities. Check out Engine 1 and other fire and rescue vehicles! Try on firefighter gear. Meet the firefighters and paramedics who serve our community. Enjoy treats and beverages!

CPR CLASSES - SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

SVFD offers free "hands-only" CPR training for friends and families. We train community members to administer infant, child and adult CPR using the most current guidelines. Register online at spokanevalleyfire.com or call 928-1700.



The new Ladder 10 Truck (top) and Station 3 groundbreaking ceremony.



WELCOME NEW LADDER 10!

After much anticipation, this new Ladder truck has joined the SVFD apparatus fleet at a cost of \$1.5 million. It is a KME Tractor Drawn Aerial (TDA) that requires two drivers to operate. Despite the size, it is much more flexible in tight spaces than the current Ladder 10. Because this is the first TDA in the Department, it requires extensive training before it can be safely deployed. New Ladder 10 is expected to be fully operational by early summer. **We welcome everyone to participate in the official "Push In" ceremony for the new ladder truck at 12 pm on April 22 during the Greenacres Station 10 Open House!**

LIBERTY LAKE FIRE STATION 3 BREAKS GROUND

Construction is underway at 21300 E. Country Vista Drive, the new location of Liberty Lake Fire Station 3. The project was launched with a ceremonial ground breaking on March 24. The new 11,691 square foot fire station will include three drive-through apparatus bays and will be built to last for 50 years. The station is relocating from 2218 N. Harvard Road to help assure that response coverage keeps pace with development and growth. Careful financial planning has allowed the Department to allocate a \$3.2 million budget without asking taxpayers to incur debt. Completion is expected by December 2017.

The SVFD Gazette is published bi-annually for the community we serve by the Community Affairs Office. For more information, call 892-4155 or visit www.spokanevalleyfire.com.

LIKE US @SpokaneValleyFireDepartment FOLLOW US @SpokaneValleyFD

Spokane Valley, WA 99206
2120 N Wilbur
Spokane Valley, WA 99206



U.S. Postage
PAID
SPokane, WA
Permit #7
EORWSS
POSTAL
CUSTOMER

MEDIC 7 LAUNCHED TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

On April 3, Spokane Valley Fire Department launched Medic 7, a single emergency medical services (EMS) unit to respond to lower severity medical calls. The unit will operate for a six-month trial period.

Since 2013, calls for service have increased 26 percent with over 80 percent of those responses to medical emergencies. Lower severity medical calls comprise about 53 percent of medical emergencies during peak activity.

Among the long list of objectives during the trial period, Medic 7 aims to deliver efficient and effective medical services to the greater Spokane Valley community while reducing the wear and tear on the Department's fire engines and ladder trucks.

MEDIC 7 WILL:

- **Respond** primarily to lower severity medical calls such as falls, headaches, abdominal pain, etc.
- **Run** a two-person crew consisting of one firefighter Paramedic and one firefighter Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- **Be Located** at Evergreen Station 7 (1121 S. Evergreen) to serve the area in the fire district with the highest number of calls for service
- **Operate** during peak call volume hours: Monday – Friday from 8 am – 8 pm

During the trial period, Medic 7 is responding to calls in a 2008 Ford F250 Crew Cab 4x4. The truck was already in the Department's fleet and was formerly used as a tow vehicle. Medic 7 is now repurposed and fully equipped for emergency medical response.

Known in the industry as an Alternative Response Unit (ARU) program, data will be collected and analyzed during the Medic 7 trial period, which runs through September 2017.



PROPOSITION 1 SEEKS TO RENEW SALES TAX FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

On April 25, 2017, voters will have the option to approve Spokane County's Proposition 1. This ballot measure renews the 1/10th of 1% local sales and use tax that helps operate, maintain and improve Emergency Communication Systems and services in Spokane County. This means that for every \$10 retail purchase, Spokane County would continue to receive 1 cent in sales tax for public safety. This is not a new tax. It was first approved by voters in 2008.

With the passage of Proposition 1, Spokane County law and fire agencies, including Spokane Valley Fire Department, will maintain the emergency communications system that integrates 911, Fire, Police, Emergency Medical Services staff, and Crime Check, as well as enhance the system's technology and capabilities.

» [Learn more @ Prop1Spokane.org](http://Prop1Spokane.org)



IN MEMORIAM

Retired Fire Chief Douglas J. Rider passed away on March 19 at age 84. He joined the Spokane Valley Fire Department in 1954 and served until his retirement as Fire Chief in 1982.

Schedule your FREE Home Fire Safety Visit, Today!

In as little as 30 minutes, we'll evaluate current fire safety conditions in your home including smoke alarms, heat sources, evacuation plans, fire hazards and carbon monoxide detectors. We'll install free smoke alarms (if needed), including alarms for the hearing-impaired.

Call 892-4153 or visit SpokaneValleyFire.com



"CLUTTER BAG" INCREASES SMOKE ALARM INSTALLATIONS

It's red and black and fits nicely under a fire engine's backseat. It's full of all the supplies needed to install smoke alarms. It's the "Clutter Bag"!

Named for **Firefighter**

Max Clutter, the bag was his probationary (first year) firefighter project. He set out to create a smoke alarm installation kit for firefighters to streamline the process of checking for working smoke alarms in homes after responding to an emergency medical services (EMS) call.

"I wanted to make it easier by having all the tools and supplies for installing smoke alarms in one place, instead of in different places on the engine," Clutter explained. "By having the best, easy-to-use tools all in one place, I felt like it would be more user-friendly for our crews to perform this simple but important service for our community."

After developing and testing a prototype, the Clutter Bag was replicated and installed on all SVFD fire apparatus in December 2016. In addition, all firefighters received updated smoke alarm installation training to ensure consistency with current industry best practices.

These efforts, combined with the Department's new "Home Fire Safety Visit" initiative are specifically intended to prevent home fire deaths. During the first quarter of 2017, a total of 170 smoke alarms were installed in 72 homes visited by SVFD personnel. As compared to the same time period in 2016, that's a 380% increase in home visited and a 900% increase in the number of smoke alarms installed!

SPRING CLEANING FOR HOME FIRE SAFETY



As blue skies and warmer temperatures return, thoughts turn to cleaning up from the long winter, making repairs around the home and preparing for hot summer weather. This year, the Spokane Valley Fire Department is encouraging you to include home fire safety items on your spring cleaning checklist – inside and outside your home.

- **ALARMS** - Smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms save lives, if they are working. Test alarms monthly (press the TEST button) and replace the battery at least once a year. Also replace any alarms if they are more than 10 years old. Make sure you have a smoke alarm in every bedroom and on every floor plus one CO alarm on every level of your home.
- **LAUNDRY ROOM** - Clean out your dryer filter, vents and hoses of any lint and debris. According to the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), failure to clean dryers is the leading cause of laundry room fires.
- **ELECTRICAL** - Check your home for cracked, frayed or overloaded extension cords or surge protectors and replace them.
- **YARD DEBRIS** - Remove potential fire fuel by cleaning up leaves, debris and trimming tree branches to maintain a "fire zone" of at least 10 feet from the home. Clean out gutters, downspouts and remove leaves and combustible debris from your roof.
- **HOME ADDRESS** - Check to make sure that your address numbers are still up, not faded and clearly visible from the street. Replace outdoor light bulbs so your address can be seen at night.
- **CHEMICALS & FUEL** - Make sure paint, yard and pool chemicals are stored properly. Gasoline and other fuel containers should be stored away from combustible material. Old or leaking containers should be disposed of through local waste management.
- **DEFENSIBLE SPACE** - Wildfire season is coming. Clear your home's ignition zone and create your property's defensible space now, before temperatures rise.

» [For more information](http://SpokaneValleyFire.com) about Fire and Life Safety, visit SpokaneValleyFire.com.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE HOTLINE! The Hotline is a monthly e-newsletter filled with timely, relevant information about the initiatives and activities going on in your Fire Department. View archived issues of the Hotline and subscribe online @ SpokaneValleyFire.com

