

THE BUGLE REPORT



“FLOOD & FIRES”

By Chief John Sinclair



It seems 2009 has gotten off to a rousing start, with no shortage of excitement. We are currently averaging 9.7 calls per day. In the last five weeks, we have had 13 structure fires of significance and of course the flooding. For a District our size, that is busy, especially when you realize that at times we are doing 3-5 out of town transfers to Yakima and Seattle per day. Most of these are sick patients that truly need medical attention at a higher level facility. I know you are all working hard, and the citizens, the Board, and the Leadership Team appreciate all of your efforts. Each and every one of you – admin, career, community volunteer, resident and reserve – should be proud of your contribution to our community. Whatever role you have in our District, I thank you for your continued professionalism and hard work. KVFR is a hard-working TEAM and FAMILY. Thank you.

Speaking of our KVFR Family, we had a scare last week when Gary Burrows, one of our great paramedic/firefighters had a medical emergency and was transported to Harborview. Thankfully, Gary’s issue was quickly treated and he was back attending a paramedic meeting this week. Gary will be off shift for a few weeks as he heals. We want to wish Gary a speedy recovery and extend to him and his family our thoughts and prayers, and the knowledge that if they need anything, they just need to let us know.

We received a couple of thank you notes from citizens we helped over the last month. The owners of the home on Badger Pocket Road sent the following:

“KVFR – Thank you – words are not enough to express our gratitude for what you do every day. Your help and continued concern during and after our house fire is above and beyond. We sincerely appreciate everything you have done.”

The people in the Highway 97 crash that involved prolonged extrication that Station 2-8 assisted with sent a note and picture of their son with the following:

“Dear Responders and EMT Fowler, Thank you for all your help and expertise after our accident on Sunday 1/11/09 early AM. Thank you! People like you make this a wonderful world.”

Reviewed Responses Through DECEMBER 2008		
KVFR	DEC	YTD
Fire	13	161
EMS	188	2316
Other	51	546
TOTALS	252	3023

Many of you were on one of these calls; even if you weren’t, you should know that just by being a firefighter and responding to calls you make a huge difference in our community. You bring hope to people when they are having the worst day of their lives. Both of the events referenced above were terrible for the families affected, but because of your skill, expertise, compassion and caring, they were comforted in their time of turmoil. Thank you.

We are embarking on a new era within the Resident Program. Starting February 1st we will establish the position of Lead Resident (LR) and have seven (7) residents. Mike Sandman has accepted the role of LR and we will have Tyler Gremel as a new live-in resident; Kenton

[Article Continues on Page 3]



By Training Captain Joe Delvo

***The question is the same every year:
Which will be better, the game or the commercials?***

FROM THE SOAP BOX:

A good share of our training is required by State law under WAC 296-305. I try to schedule a majority of the mandatory training during the winter months to fit everyone’s busy schedule. Obviously, I can’t make a schedule that works for everyone; that is why we try to schedule multiple drills to try and give everyone a chance to attend. The other side of this issue is documentation, so if you are getting your first aid training or any other mandatory training elsewhere, please give me documentation or a copy of your card. Speaking of Mandatory training, there is still several personnel that need to do their annual SCBA and N-95 Fit Test.

Our annual Wildland Pack test for red carded personnel will be in April. So please get out and start stretching those legs. Speaking of stretching, don’t forget to stretch before and after your workout.

Training Reminder:

- When the temperature is below freezing and you are using a SCBA, leave the airswitch in the “ON AIR” position after the first use. Otherwise the moisture from your breath can freeze on the exhalation valve and when you go to the “ON AIR or DOWN position the valve will not seal properly.
- Also, don’t forget to check the hand wheel for tightness on your SCBA’s when you’re swapping out bottles or doing rig checks.

Additional Announcements:

- ➡ See page 4 for additional training opportunities
- ➡ FYI – A training burn will potentially occur in either February or March

February Drills:

- 1st Drill: HAZMAT/Confined Space Awareness (Mandatory)
START TIME: 1900@ Ellensburg High School Little Theatre (park on 3rd)
- 2nd Drill: Fire Shelter Video and practice Shelter deployment
- OTEP: KVFR module 1, February 12 @ Michaelson at CWU, 23rd at Valley View Elementary cafeteria @ 1900

1st Drill: Required Drill (must attend one of the two nights)

<u>Company:</u>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
All Companies	Feb. 03	1900-2100	EHS F-130
All Companies	Feb. 11	1900-2100	EHS F-130

**** F-130 is across from the Little Theatre**

“FLOOD & FIRES” Continued

Lucke will be a resident-in-waiting. The entire goal of our resident program is to give our young firefighters experience in the fire service so they can learn if they want a career as a firefighter. The vast majority of our past residents have gone on to become firefighters throughout the Northwest. On occasion we have had a person that found the life of a firefighter didn't suit them as a lifelong career. Either way, it is a great experience for them.

The residents are here to learn the craft of firefighting and EMS. They do not replace any of our career, reserve or volunteer firefighters; they are here to learn from all. Having a Lead Resident is another step in their learning about station life, and gives some supervisory and advocacy experience for whomever holds the position. I hope when you see Tyler and Kenton out on calls, you will extend a greeting to them and welcome them to the KVFR Team and Family.

The Calaway fire was an example of how our diverse KVFR Team can work together and not only work well together, but in this case, we saved a business and an economic engine for our local community. Every flavor of firefighter within KVFR responded to assist; in the end we had almost 40 firefighters there. This was a unique fire and presented us with some different challenges. Thankfully, whether it was removing a truck that was an exposure or having to operate a front-end loader in bunker gear and SCBA, we had people there that could jump into action and artfully accomplish the mission. Capt. Ratcliff made some great decisions as he responded, and once there, he quickly attacked the fire threatening the compressor building. The 2-8 crew moved a truck that was an exposure, and Capt. Møllergaard accomplished artistry in his removal of the chaff and hay stack with the loader in smoke-filled conditions. Everyone worked to perfection. Thank you for your dedication and expertise.

A special note of thanks to the fire investigation team: Chief Elliott, Capt. Seemiller, PM/FF Dan Johnson, from KVFR, Brenda and Barry from Kittitas County, KCSO and a plethora of ATF folks – they have concluded it was a spontaneous combustion fire.

February will bring new challenges for us, and I know we will meet them with the same dedication and professionalism that we continue to exhibit. One cautionary note: our nation, our state, our county, and specifically our community are seeing the deepening of a recession. I have been speaking to experts from here to WA DC; they all expect the current trend to continue throughout 2009. Our situation locally is going to get worse before it gets better. More people will lose jobs, and there will be a need for us to be understanding and compassionate to those affected. Tough economic times cause people to do crazy things as we are seeing played out in the news every day. We are here to serve our community, with grace and compassion.

February is Healthy Heart Month: work out a little more, enjoy your families, and make sure to remember your sweetheart on the 14th. Stay healthy and safe...

John



*Do you need an ID card?
Please call Shannon to
request your card.
933-7231*

Training Opportunities:

- **National Fire Academy “Wildland/Urban Interface Operations and Tactics for the Company Officer”** (engine leader) Jan 31-Feb 1, Sat/Sun 8-5. I still have room if anyone wants to attend. This is an excellent opportunity right here in Ellensburg.
- **FEMA ATC 20/21** at Hal Holmes Feb 6th, 8-5. This course is for evaluating a building prior to seismic events and post evaluation after a seismic event. Let me know ASAP if you’re interested.
- **Engine Boss/Crew Boss Wildland Course** in Thorp Feb 6-7, 13-14. Must have taken Wildland FF I (We need more personnel in this course) Contact me ASAP.
- **National Fire Academy “Wildland/Urban Interface Operations and Tactics for the Chief Officer”** (Incident Commander) at West Valley Feb 28-Mar 1st 0800-1700. Another excellent NFA course for anyone that could serve as an Incident commander on a Wildland/Urban Interface incident.
- **Wildland FF II (Entry level)** required for all personnel to work on Wildland fires. All new volunteers are encouraged to participate if possible. Starting April 7th.
- **Wildland FF I Advanced Firefighter/squad boss.** At Thorp May 15-16.
- **National Fire Academy Leadership Series.** Yakima Fire Dept. St. 95 0800-1700
Leadership I: March 21-22 Leadership II: April 18-19 Leadership III: May 16-17

** All of these classes are open to all personnel. Please let me know if you are interested in attending or have any questions. It is important to know as soon as possible even if you can’t commit, but at least we can hold you a spot if you’re interested.



DEPUTY CHIEF'S MESSAGE!

By Deputy Chief Elliott

O**perations:** We have been reviewing each of the structural responses over the last month. It was discussed and we will send out the reviews to the stations but would also like to send them out by e-mail. If you have not given your e-mail to Lucinda and would like to be included in operational correspondence – please email Lucinda at lunstruml@kvfr.org. Keep up the good work.

EMS: The new EMT class has started and we have a few new personnel in the class. They will be finishing in early May and doing ride time sometime in March and April. Their commitment is appreciated; please take time to give them constructive feedback.

Prevention: Fire investigations can involve significant time. Generally, it is best to have the investigator on scene as soon as possible. Interviews and photos are generally done first. The actual investigation most often has to wait a few hours. If the fire occurs at night, we usually wait until day time to clear the atmosphere and make the investigation run smoother. In the interim, we have to maintain control of the scene. There are a number of things you can do to help – pay attention to people on scene when you arrive. If you notice things that are out of place or possible clues, please let us know. We will also be offering some first responder training in this area.

Training: If you missed the first aid class, please get a hold of Joe or myself – it is mandatory that you have a current card (within 2 years). We have been having some missed drill records. We are working on it and thank you for bringing this to our attention.

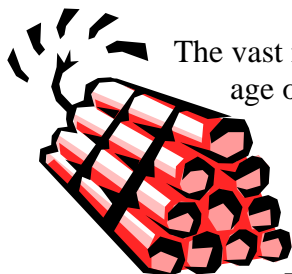
Rich

Fire Marshal's Hot Topic

Provided By Fire Marshal Joe Seemiller

We have recently been kept busy by an increase in fire responses in our district. I would like to thank everyone involved in the suppression efforts for doing such a great job preserving the area of origin. This makes my job so much easier and potentially saves grief for the property owner. Since at least two of our fires involved gasoline, I thought I would share some interesting facts and safety information.

Gasoline is a fuel that is easily available and widely in use today. Most households have a can of gas in the shed, basement or garage for domestic use. Gasoline causes a significant number of burn injuries each year from fires in which gasoline was the type of material first ignited.



The vast majority of gasoline-related burn injuries and deaths involve males – mostly under the age of 45 – and occur between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m.

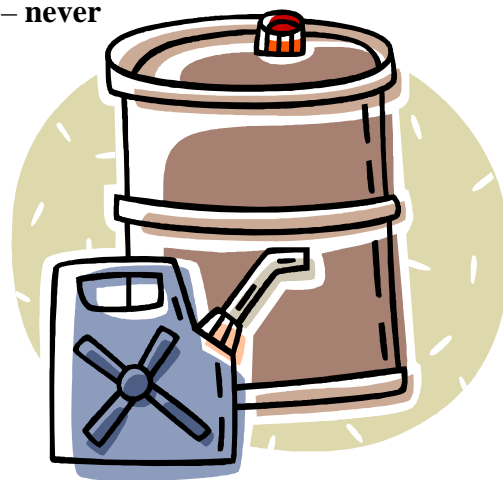
1 gallon of gasoline = Up to 20 sticks of dynamite!

Two simple rules regarding gasoline:

- 1) Gasoline has only **ONE** function: **To fuel an engine. Never use gasoline as a cleaning fluid or solvent.**
- 2) Gasoline should never be stored indoors or in close proximity to sources of heat or flame.

Gasoline Safety

- **Never use gasoline around a flame source.** Be particularly aware of sources such as matches, lighters, cigarettes and pilot lights on stoves and water heaters.
- **Only use outdoors** or in well-ventilated areas.
- Start charcoal grills with fuels labeled as charcoal starter fluid – **never use gasoline.**
- Running engines on gasoline-powered equipment such as mowers can spark and cause ignition of the gasoline. **Fill the tanks prior to use. Refuel the engine turned off and cool.**
- **If you are transporting gasoline in a car, keep the container in the trunk and keep the trunk lid ajar for ventilation.**
- **Never siphon gasoline by mouth.**
- **If gasoline is spilled on your clothes,** remove them immediately. Place clothing outdoors for several days before washing and drying so that gasoline vapors can evaporate.
- **Always keep quantities of stored gasoline to a minimum.**
- **If gasoline is swallowed, do not induce vomiting.** Seek immediate medical assistance.





**KITTTITAS VALLEY
FIRE & RESCUE**

Central Headquarters
2020 Vantage Hwy
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Phone: 509-933-7232
Fax: 509-962-7254

Newsletter for FEBRUARY 2009!

- ➔ **Next Commissioners meeting is THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 7:00 PM, @ KVFR, 102 N Pearl.**
- ➔ **Next OPEP meetings are: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 7:00 PM, @ CWU Michaelsen; and MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 7:00 PM, @ Valley View Elementary cafeteria; Module 1: "Infectious Disease Prevention."**