

THE BUGLE REPORT



"PLANS"

By Chief John Sinclair



Each of the stations has been given copies of the draft plans for: Capital Facilities Plan and Capital Vehicle Plan. The commissioners and I are looking for feedback on these plans. Now that we have the fire protection contract signed with Central Washington University, we have a funding source for the Vehicle Plan. To that end, next week we will be going out to bid for at least one new fire engine, possibly two.

The facilities plan has no dedicated funding source as yet. The current idea is that if the wind farms go through, they might be a source of funding. This would be enough to fund the property acquisition and building of volunteer stations over time. However, to build a station to house career personnel, we will either need to be awarded a grant from DHS (there is currently \$210 million allocated to building fire stations in the federal budget) which we will request, or we need to pass a General Obligation Bond.

In this current economic climate, we will not be taking any money issues to the voters. So, that is not an option for several years. That said, we will need to be gearing up for some type of action on these issues when the local economy does recover. Our current lease on the downtown station ends in eight years. We can renew for another 10 years if the City of Ellensburg agrees. However, they are feeling the need to increase space for the police department and they do own the building. So, please look at the plans and send me your comments. You can email your comments to sinclairj@kvfr.org or JDS606@AOL.com.

Reviewed Responses Through APRIL 2009

KVFR	APR	YTD
Fire	19	52
EMS	201	760
Other	33	153
TOTALS	253	965

As I mentioned above, we have finalized the contract with Central Washington University and will be receiving money soon. The contract sets a baseline, and as the university builds and improves the structures, the amount they will pay the District grows. The premise the District had in the negotiations was that everyone else pays \$1.50 per thousand on the value of their property; therefore, so should the state. I want to thank Fire Commissioner Pat Clerf for his assistance in the negotiations. His help and insight were invaluable.

Last week I went over and picked up the newest medic unit. We now have five Ambulance/Medic Units. Three will be at station 2-9, and 2 will be at station 2-1. This should reduce the times we are down to zero medic units in the District. Our call volume continues to grow, especially in the area of Emergency Medical Services.

Last weekend we had a tragic call on Saturday night. A pickup with seven people rolled at a high rate of speed killing one. The remaining six are lucky to have less severe injuries considering the mechanism of the crash. Initial reports were seven patients 5-7 miles off the pavement in Coleman Canyon. The

[Article Continues on Page 3]

By Training Captain Joe Delvo

Next time you see Jack Piper or Tom Bridenback you may notice a wider smile than normal. In May they were both accepted into the CWU Paramedic program. Congratulations are in order.



Now on the flip side, this leaves a gap to fill in the Resident program. Jack Piper transferred to the Reserve program and we filled his vacancy with Kenton Lucke. Please introduce yourself to Kenton when you get a chance.



So, if you know any young men and women that are aspiring to become a firefighter, make sure they turn in an application. We will be doing orientation in August.

Have a good June 2009 and I will see you on the Drill ground!

June Drills:

- ➔ 1st Drill: Pump Operations w/master streams and SCBA quarterlies
 - START TIME: 1900
- ➔ 2nd Drill: Makeup quarterlies, Bunker gear inspections, Drafting
- ➔ OPEP: KVFR module 3, June 11 @ Michaelsen (CWU), June 15 @ EHS

1st Drill: Pump Operations and SCBA quarterlies

<u>Company:</u>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
Fairview	June 01	1900-2100	8 th & Maple
Westside/Reecer Cr.	June 02	1900-2100	West Ellensburg Park
Chiefs Company	June 03	1900-2100	St. 21
Eastside/Badger Pocket	June 08	1900-2100	Kittitas High School
Broadview	June 09	1900-2100	BiMart parking south
Denmark	June 09	1900-2100	BiMart Parking south

“PLANS” Continued

on-duty crews were responding with a well formulated plan and I augmented that plan by toning station 2-6 personnel. We had several volunteers that showed up to assist and a few off-duty career personnel. The outcome was tragic with a young man dying at the scene. We didn't know how many patients would be in extremis, so all the help was great to have. Thank you to all. A special thanks to the District 1 folks that brought their aid car in to backstop us and also for those that responded to the scene because they were close. Thank you.

We seemed to have survived the spring fire season fairly well. We are now mostly “greened up” so we have a couple of months before the dried out summer season goes. We will still have fires, and since our community is a recreational area for many from the 206, 425, 360 and 253 areas, we will have people getting into trouble because they don't understand our rivers and foothills. Thank you for wearing your pagers and being ready to lend a hand when the emergencies come in. The nature of our business is episodic and the vagaries of chance cause us to be busy at some unpredictable and odd times. Constant vigilance and constant preparation is our duty. So, again I thank you for your commitment.

If you follow fire service news much, you will have seen the dust-up between the Oklahoma State Trooper and the Paramedic on a Medic Unit. If you haven't, just do a Google search and you can find it. The issue was that a medic unit taking a patient to the hospital Code 3 didn't pull over for a trooper headed for a call. As you will see from the video, the trooper was a bit amped up. Unlike many areas of the country, we have excellent working relationships with our colleagues in law enforcement. We work great with the WSP, KCSO, EPD and Campus PD on the tactical and strategic levels. However, like all relationships, you have to commit to working with each other and NOT taking advantage of the relationship.

Make sure when you are out on the calls to thank them for their assistance. Being in law enforcement is harder than being in the fire service; most people love it when we show up, most people groan when LEO's arrive. Please say thank you for their assistance; you might just make their day. It may very well be the only kind words they hear that day.

Kudos's to the on and off duty personnel that attended the Veterans Memorial dedication. This is a wonderful memorial to the men and women that have served our country in time of war and in times of peace. The planners were expecting about 150 attendees, and about 500 showed up. I received many grateful comments from people thanking the firefighters for helping with cooking and serving the food. Good job everyone. Two of our own, Joel Ratcliff (Capt. David Ratcliff's son) and Michael Rowe, are currently serving in harm's way in a combat area. Please keep our troops including Joel and Michael in your thoughts and prayers.

Over the past several years, whenever we have needed another transport rig, we have called Fire District 1 to assist. They have been great partners in helping to serve our community. This summer they may be a little thin for volunteers, so if we can help them we will. Station 2-8 is the closest and might get tapped out to assist. Thank you in advance for helping out the neighbors.

School is about out, which means that kids will be out playing during our bright and beautiful summer days. Please be careful when you are responding whether in your POV or in a rig. The last thing we want is to hurt a child.

Be safe; remember to hydrate....with water. It is fixing to get hot. See you soon.

John





DEPUTY CHIEF'S MESSAGE!

By Deputy Chief Elliott

Operations: Please make sure that apparatus have some water and Gatorade on board for warm weather operations. The new medic unit arrived 5/22 and should be in service within a week or so. This will be #5 and should give us some additional depth and flexibility.

EMS: H1N1 Flu (aka Swine) will likely be in Kittitas County by the time this newsletter is out. What this means to us is that we want to make sure that all personnel are using adequate PPE.

If there is a possibility of airborne disease – the patient has a productive cough, is sneezing, is vomiting or has facial trauma that involves the nose or mouth area – consider wearing an N-95 mask. We have an adequate stock of these masks.

The other primary issue is hand washing. We have also installed extra hand sanitizer in the medic units and stations.

The bottom line is that this flu came from a different location than we typically see and has spread at a time of year that most flu strains are dying back. It is also spreading more commonly among younger persons and does not seem to be affecting adults over 45 in near the same numbers as would commonly be expected. This has caused some concern and additional precautions – some

national stockpile meds have been distributed to local control. However, this flu virus does not have higher than normal mortality rates, can be controlled with reasonable precautions, and does not require special medical treatment for people without underlying medical conditions.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Prevention: With the assistance of EPD and the prosecutor, an Arson 1 conviction was returned on the Thanksgiving Day fire. Public education activities will scale back over the summer with the exception of tours, but we did have a busy year and feel that our efforts are important.

Training: Reminder - we are scheduling a large scale Hazmat / MCI drill June 5-7. The MCI portion will be on the Friday afternoon – all help is welcome. Saturday will be Hazmat with up to 200 National Guard participants.

We need at least 70 patients; so, if you know someone who wants to help – high school or older – please contact me at 201-6280. There will also be an EOC drill going on in the background for anyone who wants to tour or participate.

Rich

➡ **Next Commissioners meeting is THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 7:00 PM, @ KVFR, 102 N Pearl.**

➡ **Next OTEP meeting is: THURSDAY, JUNE 11, @ CWU – Michaelson, and MONDAY, JUNE 15 @EHS; Module 3: “Head, Spine, and Chest Trauma.”**

Fire Marshal's Hot Topic

Provided By Fire Marshal Joe Seemiller

In Kittitas County spring brings our famous winds and, unfortunately, brush fires too. As always, please consider safety first when responding to any call. During the initial size-up, determining the possible origin is critical for any fire investigation. Cause determination allows us to protect our customers from faulty equipment or unsafe practices and if necessary put bad people away. If possible, mark and protect the origin from bystanders and overzealous firefighters. Anyone interested in receiving more information on fire scene preservation please contact Joe Delvo for scheduling information.

Only a small portion of our jurisdiction lies in forested areas; however, for those of us who reside in these areas, "Fire Wise Management" is essential to protecting our homes. Below is some information to share with our neighbors and friends in the urban/wildland interface areas.

Use Fire Resistant Building Material - "The Best Thing That You Can Do"

The roof and exterior structure of your dwelling should be constructed of non-combustible or fire resistant materials such as fire resistant roofing materials, tile, slate, sheet iron, aluminum, brick, or stone. Wood siding, cedar shakes, exterior wood paneling, and other highly combustible materials should be treated with fire retardant chemicals.

Maintain a Survivable Space - "Things You Can Do Today"

- Clean roof surfaces and gutters of pine needs, leaves, branches, etc., regularly to avoid accumulation of flammable materials.
- Remove portions of any tree extending within 10 feet of the flue opening of any stove or chimney.
- Maintain a screen constructed of non-flammable material over the flue opening of every chimney or stovepipe. Mesh openings of the screen should not exceed 1/2 inch.
- Landscape vegetation should be spaced so that fire cannot be carried to the structure or surrounding vegetation.
- Remove branches from trees to height of 15 feet.
- A fuel break should be maintained around all structures.
- Dispose of stove or fireplace ashes and charcoal briquettes only after soaking them in a metal pail of water.
- Store gasoline in an approved safety can away from occupied buildings.
- Propane tanks should be far enough away from buildings for valves to be shut off in case of fire. Keep area clear of flammable vegetation.



- All combustibles such as firewood, picnic tables, boats, etc. should be kept away from structures.
- Garden hose should be connected to outlet.
- Addressing should be indicated at all intersections and on structures.
- All roads and driveways should be at least 16 feet in width.
- Have fire tools handy such as: ladder long enough to reach the roof, shovel, rake and bucket for water.
- Each home should have at least two different entrance and exit routes.

For another on-line source of information on protecting your home from wildland fire, go to the FireWise Web Site <<http://www.firewise.org>> .



**KITTITAS VALLEY
FIRE & RESCUE**

Central Headquarters
2020 Vantage Hwy
Ellensburg, WA 98926

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

Newsletter for JUNE 2009!
Newsletter for JUNE 2009!