

THE BUGLE REPORT



“SPRINGTIME - ALMOST”

By Chief John Sinclair



Spring will soon be here with the bloom of the first flowers and the greening up of the fields. Typically, before green-up occurs, we have a flurry of grass fires, especially on the weekends when the days are a little warmer and the weekend farmers on their 3-5 acres are out tending their field. Just a couple of safety reminders: Grass isn't worth your life; no property is, but especially not grass and other vegetation. No need to drive fast to get to a grass fire in your rig or in our rig.

With our spring winds, grass fires can move fast and put out a lot of smoke. Earlier this year a father and son, both firefighters and in separate rigs, collided at a smoky brush fire and one was killed. When you respond, park out of the smoke – off the road if you can – flank the fire, and attack from the black as much as possible. Slow down. If we burn another acre of grass because it took a few minutes to get there, it will grow back.

Springtime brings people out and they dust off the winter doldrums and start cleaning and other activities. That means people falling off roofs, hurting themselves with equipment they rarely use, and more general accidents. We have changed the tones so that most EMS calls don't trip the volunteer pagers. During the day if you are at home, please monitor fire main because it might be your neighbor that needs help. The reason we exist is just to help folks. We are the Department of Help.

Yesterday, I had the wonderful opportunity to head over to Chehalis with Tom Bridenback, Resident Firefighter, to pick up our newly remounted medic unit. Yes, if you have not heard the breaking news, the new medic unit and the ones we remount are red. We are a fire district, and red is our color. Anyway, I digress; the trip was great, the Pass was a bit snowy coming back, and everything was going fine until at about MP 82 a car pulled alongside and said you have a flat tire. Tom was driving at the time and he pulled off the road because he could see sparks in the mirror. Sparks coming out the back of a brand new rig is a bad sign. So, we got out and found the On Spot Automatic Tire Chain bracket had fallen off and was being drug at 70 MPH down the freeway.

Tom was quite a trooper; he dove under the rig and started to mechanic in the snow and rain. Since the one tool we had, a rescue knife wasn't going to work, we called out District 7 to bring us some tools. Ryan Risdon (Ray Risdon's son) came to our rescue shortly after we requested. It is good to have friendly neighbors.

| Reviewed Responses Through JANUARY 2009 | | |
|---|------------|------------|
| KVFR | JAN | YTD |
| Fire | 16 | 24 |
| EMS | 215 | 346 |
| Other | 56 | 85 |
| TOTALS | 287 | 455 |

Tom dismantled the now broken part and we were on our way again. Other than a good story and a very embarrassed ambulance manufacturer, we are no worse for wear. They are coming tomorrow and we will get it fixed for good. Apparently they did not torque down the mounting bolts...oops. The box is on a GMC chassis and is very nice. I think we will be very happy with it for a long time. The 5th medic unit should be delivered in time for summer.

[Article Continues on Page 3]

By Training Captain Joe Delvo

REMINDER:

Annual SCBA Fit tests are required before firefighters can use a SCBA in fireground operations. We have several firefighters that have not completed their Fit test for 2009. If you are on the list and wish to be involved in fireground operations, please make arrangements to come by Station 21 and complete your Fit test. If you do not wish to participate in Fireground operations that require the use of a SCBA, I need to have you sign a waiver.

We are working with the other County fire districts and the DNR to put on a County-wide Wildland Firefighter II. If you wish to attend, please call me ASAP so we can get you registered. We will also be doing Wildland Refreshers in March. REMINDER: you *must* do a refresher to have a 2009 Red Card issued. We will do the wildland pack test in April, so if you haven't been out getting your exercise, start now.

Region 7 Training Council is sponsoring a leadership class that will be an excellent course for anyone currently in a leadership role or aspiring to someday be in a leadership role to attend. The course is called "Axioms of Leadership." It is a two day course with approximately half the time spent in the classroom and the other half doing stations outside. The course has been taught across the country and has been offered at FDIC in the past. It is being offered at a third of the cost it would normally be offered at. I hope several members of the agency will take advantage of this opportunity. If you have any questions, please give me a call. The course announcement will be out next week for further information. The course dates are May 30-31, 2009.

KVFR ID Badges!

If you do not have your ID badge yet, please come to Station 21 on March 17, 2009, at 1800, to have one made.

Have a great March 2009 and I will see you on the drill ground!

March Drills:

- 1st Drill: Search & Rescue, RIT, and Engine operations
START TIME: 1900@ Flight Tech. Building on Beech Rd, Near the airport. Bring your Primary Engine and Bunker gear
- 2nd Drill: Pump Operations and SCBA quarterlies
- OTEP: KVFR module 2, March 16th 1900 @ EHS
- Training Burn: Flight Tech. Building at the Airport, March 14th, 2009, @ 0900
- Wildland Refresher: March 04, 10, and 18th. All Red Card holders must attend one of the three nights. (If you can't make, it give me a call so I can try to get you in elsewhere)
- Wildland Firefighter II: *See page 4 for schedule*

1st Drill: Engine Operations and SCBA Quarterlies

| <u>Company:</u> | <u>Date:</u> | <u>Time:</u> | <u>Location:</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| Fairview | Mar. 03 | 1900-2100 | FT Building |
| Westside/Reecer Cr. | Mar. 03 | 1900-2100 | FT Building |
| Eastside | Mar. 03 | 1900-2100 | FT Building |
| Badger Pocket | Mar. 11 | 1900-2100 | FT Building |
| Broadview/Denmark | Mar. 11 | 1900-2100 | FT Building |

“SPRINGTIME” Continued

Everyone in America is talking about the economy, the stimulus package and what it all means. We have learned that a small part of the package, \$210 million (only in Washington, DC is that a small number) is available for fire station construction. There are a host of conditions, one of which is the project needs to be “shovel ready”. We will be submitting an application through the United States Fire Administration, which supervises the grant process, to build the station on Vantage Highway. Our design is complete, we own the property and it is shovel ready. What are our chances? Less than 50%, but it is better than playing Lotto. If we receive the grant, we will let everyone know.

Speaking of fire stations, the City of Ellensburg has completed repairs to the leaky roof on station 2-9...we hope. According to Captain Fowler, they completed the second half yesterday. JFK said, “The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining.” Now we have to wait till it rains to see if the repair worked.

The other tidbit of news regarding fire stations is the IAFF Local received the station location study back from IAFF Headquarters and we will be looking at it as a reference to guide future stations. I want to thank the leadership of IAFF Local 1758 for their help in this project. It is a

well researched document with a ton of useful data points.

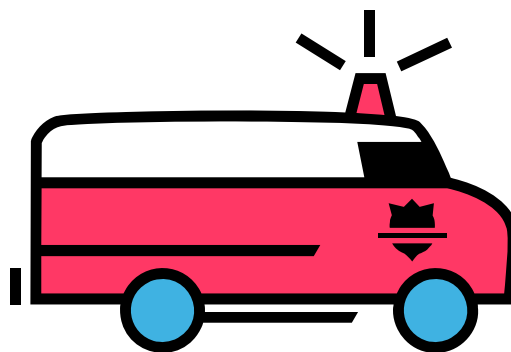
Repairs should be completed next week on E-292. It appears it blew a head gasket and made a lot of white smoke for the Reserve that was driving it at the time. It is a 1980, and with an aging fleet, these sorts of things happen. That said, the crews are doing a good job on keeping the fleet maintained. As they get more work heaped on their plate though – calls, inspections and tours – it becomes harder to keep up on everything. Soon we will need to hire a mechanic.

I want to thank everyone for continuing to train hard and respond when we need you. The community, the commissioners, and I appreciate your dedication and love of our Valley. Working together, we are able to handle anything.

Have a great March; don’t breathe smoke, not even grass smoke. Yes, for those children of the 60’s, I mean that “grass” as well. Please be careful when responding and when operating on the freeways and roadways. Wear your retro-reflective vests. Most of all, it is spring...have a little fun.

Let me know if you need anything.

John



**KITTITAS VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE
COURSE AGENDA**

COURSE: WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER II (S-130)

| | | | |
|---|-----------|--|-------|
| Tuesday, March 31: | 1800-2200 | S-190 Fire Behavior | |
| Thursday, April 2: | 1800-2200 | S-190 Fire Behavior cont. Unit 4C Fire Shelter | |
| Tuesday, April 7: | 1800-2200 | L-180 Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service | Delvo |
| Thursday, April 9: | 1800-2200 | Unit 1 Preparedness Unit 3 Resource Types Unit 4A Watch Out Situations and Standard Fire Orders | Delvo |
| Tuesday, April 14: | 1800-2200 | Unit 4B LCES Unit 5 Transportation Safety Unit 7 Firing Devices Unit 14 Wildland/Urban Interface Unit 10B Radio Communications | Delvo |
| Thursday, April 16: | 1800-2200 | Unit 6 Hand tools Unit 10 Patrolling Unit 16 Map and Compass | |
| Tuesday, April 21: | 1800-2200 | Unit 8 Water Use Unit 9 Suppression Unit 11 Mop Up | |
| Saturday Field Day, April 25 or May 2 (TBA): | 0900-1600 | Fire Exercise | |

*** ICS-100 Must be completed online or proof of previous completion demonstrated before the end of class.

Notes: Unit 13 HAZMAT will only be an overview because all candidates should already have awareness level through their Fire District.



DEPUTY CHIEF'S MESSAGE!

By Deputy Chief Elliott

KVFR Resource / Assignment List

Enclosed with this newsletter is a resource / assignment list for your reference. The list is provided in two formats: personnel assignments by station and shift on one side and alphabetical resource / assignments on the other. Hopefully, one of the two formats will help you find what or who you need. Volunteer company captains should post this list at their respective stations.

If you need something, please contact the member responsible for the resource or assigned as your liaison. If that person is not available, the best alternative is to go to someone in that division, their supervisor, or someone at that station.

If you need assistance after hours, cannot find what you need on this list, or are just frustrated and need some assistance – you can call Chief Sinclair at 856-7714, Chief Elliott at 201-6280, or the Shift Captain at 933-7242, and we will try and get you some assistance. Cell phone for St 21 is 201-6285 and for 29 is 201-3000.

Rich

Fire Marshal's Hot Topic

Provided By Fire Marshal Joe Seemiller



Over the last four years as Fire Marshal, I have noticed a steady decrease in fire code violations. What this means is that our efforts are paying off. The approach has been more of an educational process rather than heavy-handed enforcement. Many of our customers are justifiably proud of the improvements they have made in making their buildings safer. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to improving the safety of our community for our customers, our friends, and our neighbors.

This month I would like to share some kitchen fire statistics with you. The elderly are especially vulnerable. Some new technologies may help to reduce some of the risks. If anyone is aware of individuals or families that are at risk for cooking fires, please contact me at 933-7241 or 856-4455.



- Cooking equipment was involved in 31 percent of home structure fires reported in 2003.
- Males face a disproportionate risk of cooking fire injury relative to the amount of cooking they do.
- Young children and older adults face a higher risk of death from cooking fires than do other age groups.

- Young children are at high risk from non-fire cooking-related burns.
- Unattended cooking is the single leading factor contributing to cooking fires.
- Many other cooking fires begin because combustibles are too close to cooking heat sources.
- Frying is the cooking method posing the highest risk.
- More than half of home cooking injuries occur when people try to fight the fire themselves.
- Educational effectiveness may be enhanced by linking burn prevention and fire prevention.
- Technology may be the best long-term solution to dealing with the cooking fire problem.





**KITTTITAS VALLEY
FIRE & RESCUE**

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Newsletter for MARCH 2009!

- ➔ **Next Commissioners meeting is THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 7:00 PM, @ KVFR, 102 N Pearl.**
- ➔ **Next OTEP meeting is: MONDAY, MARCH 16, 7:00 PM, @ EHS; Module 2: "Cardiac Emergencies (AED)."**