

The Bugle Report

“Progress 2010”

By John Sinclair, Fire Chief



On Wednesday, Captain Charlton and I fly to Sioux Falls, South Dakota to do the final inspection on the new engines on Thursday. That night, Fire Commissioner Neil O’Neill and Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Moen will join us and we will begin the drive out on Friday, June 25th. We hope to have the Engines into Spokane on Monday morning, and they will complete final detailing the next few days. We expect to have them here by the 1st of July. My hope is they will be on display for the 4th of July celebrations and then training will begin in earnest. The engines are being delivered 3-4 months earlier than we anticipated; which is great news for us.

At the last Board of Fire Commissioners meeting the Board approved the contract for an architect to create construction documents for the 890 Cleman Road Station. The Architect will charge us \$2,500.00 for the plans. Once we get the plans, we can go out to bid on the station. That should occur sometime in July. We could hopefully break ground in September.

The Board also approved the remounting of one of the medic units. It will go on a GMC chassis like the last two. Yes, in answer to your unspoken question, it will be red. We are doing what we can to standardize and modernize the fleet. When we completed the merger/annexation, the capital fleet was in a hole. After this year we will have come a long way to dig ourselves out of that hole. We still have the Tenders to deal with but we have a plan for that.

Our biggest capital issue yet to be resolved is still fire stations. We have seven years left on the lease of the downtown station with the possibility to renew for another ten. However, the current property owner, the City of Ellensburg, has expressed their desire to get the building back as soon as possible to expand Ellensburg Police into the space. If you have any great ideas, I would love to hear them.

The Board also approved the application and testing procedure for a mechanic. We will be sending out the job notice soon. If you know of a person that would be a good fit for our District, please have them get in touch with Shannon Hill, HR Manager.

According to the Daily Record, the month of May was the windiest in the last eleven years. It was also wet. So far, June is doing a good job of imitating May. When you look at the foothills you see a green hue. Beautiful to look at this time of year, however, just remember, all this wet weather has caused a significant growth of the 1-hour fuels. In July, August and September when the hot weather dries them out, it could be very interesting. We have been lucky the last couple years without much vegetation fires. Be ready this year...

On August 28, 2010 Ellensburg will be the host to the Northwest Ride of Dreams. This is an event held in conjunction with Special Olympics and is being coordinated by Seattle Police Department and Ellensburg Police. Our role will be the EMS mission and also fire prevention and suppression. They anticipate 200 classic cars, 4,000 motorcycle riders coming from all points across the state and an additional 4-5,000 people that will drive in to attend the event. It will be held at West Ellensburg Park. Chief Elliott and I had the opportunity to attend a planning session with the team last week. We will be placing folks at the Park to staff a medical tent and we will bring in a brush truck and tender with a porta-tank for inside the event. Then we will need a brush truck and engine committed to the field where cars will be parked. This could be double the number of people we typically get for the fire works display at West Ellensburg Park.

Moreover, there will be herds of bikes coming to the event. Traveling in packs of up to 400 riders, you can imagine the problems that could entail. Please take a look at your schedule and let Captain Delvo or Chief Elliott know if you are available to assist with our portion of the event.

We will also need some help on the 4th of July. Same set-up as in the past. Station 2-8 and Station 2-2 volunteers that are available will be outside the park positioned strategically and Station 2-9 and 2-1 assets will be assigned inside the park. Please let me know if you are available, I will put the plan together next week.

There are a lot of positive changes occurring within our District. I hope you can see and feel the energy. If you need to see where we are, look back four years ago and see how far we have come.

Thank you for all you do to make our community better and safer.

John

Reviewed Responses Through May 2010		
KVFR	May	YTD
<i>Fire</i>	34	150
<i>EMS</i>	208	1082
<i>Other</i>	11	43
TOTALS	253	1275

- ➡ Next **Commissioners meeting** THURSDAY, July 08, 7:00PM, @ KVFR, 102 N Pearl.
- ➡ Next **OPEP** meeting is: Monday, July 19th @ 1900 @ EHS – Module 10.



Training And Safety Notes

By Joe Delvo, Training Captain

It has been a nonexistent wildland season so far but things will probably start heating up in the next couple weeks. All of the rain and cool weather this spring has made for a bumper crop of light flashy fuels. When and if they cure out we will see abnormally high flame lengths and intensity in our fires in the light fuels. So we need to be prepared and aware of current weather and fuel conditions while operating on wildland incidents. Check and make sure your fire shelters are where you want them on your apparatus and your wildland gear is in service. The new generation fire shelters are required on any non KVFR responses. For example: DNR responses, Forest Service responses, State mobilizations. We will be conducting a inventory of how many of the old shelters we still have in service. The new shelters are the larger ones in the blue cases, and the old ones are smaller and in the yellow cases. Red Cards are in, if you want to carry yours let me know, otherwise I will keep them at St. 21 for safe keeping. I would like to put together a list of personnel that would be available to go on State Mobilizations for up to 3-4 days. Having your name on the list doesn't mean that your guaranteeing your availability it just means that I have a shorter list to go down when the State calls.

For your second drill if you have a particular commercial or agricultural occupancy in your response area that you wish to pre incident plan, please let me know and I will try to make arrangements with the owner for access.

If you are interested in being qualified to drive the Tenders please let me know. I am going to be setting a couple dates with an evaluator in the near future. As in the past we would prefer personnel that already have experience from current or previous jobs rather than trying to train personnel to drive the Tenders.

Have a good July 2010 and I will see you on the drill ground!

July Drills:

- **1st Drill:** Tender Operations, Porta tank setup, and Standard evolutions
START TIME: 1900@ assigned locations
- **2nd Drill:** Hearing Conservation and Pre-Incident planning
PowerPoint presentation in video format
- **Makeup:** SCBA quarterlies, bunker gear inspections, Heat stress training
- **OTEP:** KVFR module 10, July 19th, @ EHS



DRILL SCHEDULE:

➡ 1st Drill: Operations, Porta tank setup, and Standard evolutions

<u>Company:</u>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
Chiefs Company	July 1	1700-1900	St. 21
Westside/Reecer Cr	July 6	1900-2100	West Eburg Park
Badger Pkt/Denmark	July 12	1900-2100	KHS
Eastside	July 12	1900-2100	KHS
Fairview	July 14	1900-2100	St. 21
Broadview	July 14	1900-2100	St. 21



Deputy Chief's Message!

By Deputy Chief Elliott

Operations: At some point things will dry out and the large amount of light fuels might make for an interesting summer. Please remember that all personnel must be included in the accountability system and properly outfitted with PPE prior to engaging in any wildland fire operations. If you find yourself in the area without PPE, you can still offer assistance by getting a traffic vest and/or assisting the IC.

EMS: Kittitas County EMS is asking for some feedback on the possibility of running an Emergency Responder Course. Emergency Responder is essentially the old First Responder course and set of protocols. What we want to know is if anyone currently trained at the 1st Aid level would be interested in upgrading to the Emergency Responder level. The course would require 70 hours of instruction plus some ER and ambulance ride time. At the end of the class, OTEP requirements are similar to EMT to maintain certification. If you moved to Emergency Responder, there is no bridge to EMT – you

would have to take the whole EMT class if you wanted to upgrade to this level. Please contact me if you are interested in this EMS certification.

Surplus: We have completed one round of surplus and will be doing another shortly to include 2 or 3 fire engines. If you are aware of equipment in the inventory that is not being used and has no chance of being used, please contact me to see if we can do some housecleaning.

Cleman Road: We have awarded the architectural portion of the bid to Andreotti out of Yakima and should have preliminary plans back shortly. From there, we will work to take the project to bid in July. Input is welcome. The cleanup is still on-going but has been less costly than planned.

Rich



Prevention's Hot Topic

Provided By: Joe Seemiller, Prevention Captain

The 4th of July is quickly approaching and once again I would like to share some fire works safety information. As government employees we are held to a higher standard so please set a good example and have a safe 4th.

Know Your Fireworks!

Consumers Warned of Dangers of Illegal Explosives and Professional Fireworks

Everyone enjoys fireworks, especially in the festive Fourth of July season. But some devices can be dangerous. The National Council on Fireworks Safety recommends that you only buy consumer fireworks from a licensed store, tent or stand. Never buy fireworks from an individual's house or from someone on the street. Such devices are likely to be illegal explosives or professional 1.3G fireworks that can seriously injure you.

Consumer fireworks, regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, are packaged in bright colors and have safety warnings on the package. The packaging sets forth the country of origin, which is normally China. Typical consumer fireworks include fountains, cones, sparklers, firecrackers, rockets and multi-tube products.

Illegal explosive are often unpackaged and wrapped with plain brown paper. They are unlikely to have any safety warnings or place of manufacturer. Many of them are handmade in basements or illicit factories. They go by names such as M-80, Quarter Stick or Cherry Bombs. If someone approaches you to sell one of these illegal explosives, politely decline and then call your local police department.

Professional 1.3G fireworks are legal, but only in the hands of a licensed, trained Pyrotechnician. These devices are very different than consumer fireworks, are extremely powerful and are not meant for consumer use. These fireworks will have a warning statement and place of manufacturer, but will also plainly display that they are 1.3G professional fireworks. If someone approaches you to sell one of these professional fireworks, politely decline and then call your local police department.

Consumer fireworks, when used in accordance with their instructions, are very safe. Injuries from consumer fireworks have shown a dramatic decrease over the last twenty years, despite an astonishing increase in usage by consumers. Some form of consumer fireworks are allowed in 45 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

For a full list of consumer fireworks safety tips and a safety video, please visit www.FireworksSafety.org.





KITTITAS VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

FIREFIGHTER – PARAMEDIC FIREFIGHTER - EMT

Opens: Friday, May 21, 2010

Closes: Noon, Friday, July 30, 2010

Successful candidates will be placed on an eligibility list for two years. The Board of Fire Commissioners has adopted the rule of the list as a hiring practice.

POSITION FUNCTION

Respond to fire, rescue, EMS, and hazardous materials incidents including mitigation efforts to the level of training and/or certification. Maintain education, physical fitness, fire facilities, equipment and apparatus. Provide public education and fire prevention services to community as detailed and other duties as assigned.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Current EMT-B certification by date of written exam (August 18, 2010).
- Paramedic candidates must have Washington State paramedic certification by date of hire.
- Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
- Legal U.S. resident. **NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT, ALL NEW EMPLOYEES MUST PRESENT ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS VERIFYING IDENTITY AND AUTHORIZATION TO BE EMPLOYED IN THE UNITED STATES.**
- Must have a valid Washington State Drive's License in good standing by date of hire. (Some violations may be cause for disqualification according to the District's criteria).
- Must be a high school graduate or GED.
- Must be able to meet the District's adopted minimum physical, medical and psychological standards for Firefighter
- Ability to obtain IFSAC FF2 within one year of employment
- Must be able to successfully complete a Firefighter Recruit Academy and one (1) year probationary period.
- Must be CPAT* certified by date of written exam (August 18, 2010). Certification must be less than 12 months old by written test date and documentation will be required prior to taking the written test.
- Ability to read, write, and communicate the English language.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- IFSAC FF1/FF2
- Wildland FF2/FF1
- CDL

***CPAT = Candidate Physical Ability Test**

1. Go to www.nationaltestingnetwork.com or call 425-423-9922 or
2. Go to www.publicsafetytesting.com or call 1.866.HIRE-911

SALARY AND WORK SCHEDULE

Salary Range: \$4168.98 - \$5732.36 – 2010 Local 1758 Collective Bargaining Agreement
Work Schedule: Varied – as assigned in accordance with Collective Bargaining Agreement

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application packets are available on our website at www.kvfr.org, or by stopping at Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue, 102 North Pearl, Ellensburg, WA, in the front office. Packets will **NOT** be mailed out. **All applications and proof of certifications must be received in the District’s front office no later than Friday, July 30, 2010 at noon along with a \$15.00 filing fee. No faxes or postmarks will be accepted.**

Application review will be conducted by the HR Manager to confirm that minimum qualifications have been met. Following this review, candidates will be invited to participate in a testing process as follows:

Written Exam – Wednesday, August 18th, 6pm (2 hours)

Oral Interview – September 20 – 24, 2010 – times to be scheduled

Assessment Center – Monday and Tuesday, September 27 – 28, 2010 – times to be scheduled

Each candidate will be assessed in the following skill areas: Customer service, administrative oral board interview, EMT/Paramedic skills (hands-on) scenario, technical and incident report writing abilities.

No shows or late arrivals during any portion of the testing process will be cause for disqualification. Candidate finalists will proceed to Chief’s Interviews, background investigation and, after a conditional job offer, a medical and psychological examination/evaluation.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accommodation provided upon request.

**KITTITAS VALLEY FIRE RESCUE
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**



**KITTITAS VALLEY
FIRE & RESCUE**

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Happy 4th of July!