

Benton County Fire District **4** NEWS



FALL 2020

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF PAUL CARLYLE



I wanted to take a minute to introduce myself as your new fire chief at Benton County Fire District 4. Chief Bill Whealan has retired, and his leadership helped our fire district improve service through facilities, apparatus and personnel. His vision got us here, and your financial support for these projects made it happen. My goal is to continue his tradition of service and communication with our residents.

I wanted to update you on a few significant projects. Our new fire station should be open for business in early 2021. We will see response times improve district-wide when it comes on line, and we are looking forward to welcoming you in person to the station when we are able to do so.

PROUD MOMENTS

Benton County Fire District 4 wants to recognize three people who received promotions this month. Our fire district is a combination department, which means we rely on full-time and volunteer emergency personnel to respond to calls. This helps us deliver a level of emergency service that is often reserved for more urban areas with larger populations and higher assessed property values.

Our community also approved a fire levy lid lift this year to hire three additional firefighters. Thank you! Those positions will be on board in early 2021, and are critical to helping us respond to higher call volumes.

Having additional full-time firefighters also helps strengthen our volunteer program. Our fire district was formed by a dedicated group of volunteers in 1954. Volunteers often have full-time jobs and families in addition to serving our community through the fire district. We want to keep them involved and the key to a vibrant volunteer program is making sure that we can accommodate their schedules.

I joined Benton County Fire District 4 as a volunteer firefighter in 1999 before being hired full-time in 2006. I am grateful for the opportunities you have provided me and want you to know that my door is always open. Please feel free to contact me anytime at (509) 967-2945 or pcarlyle@bcfd4.org.

Please join us in congratulating:

- Firefighter Allen Putz has been promoted to Lieutenant;
- Lieutenant Aaron Meloy has been promoted to Captain; and
- Lieutenant Matthew Borschowa has been promoted to Captain/EMS Officer!

2604 Bombing Range Rd.
West Richland, WA 99353
(509) 967-2945

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Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4

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Disponible en Español

Este boletín está disponible en español en nuestro sitio de Internet www.bcf4.org

Board Meetings

The Board of Fire Commissioners meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. via conference call. All meetings are open to the public! Call 571-748-4021 and enter 977-1116 as the passcode to participate.

SMOKE ALARMS MEAN SAFETY

Operational smoke alarms are your family's first line of defense in case of fire. Benton County Fire District #4 encourages residents to purchase and install smoke alarms with 10-year Lithium 9V batteries. Take a few minutes today to ensure your home has the appropriate number of smoke alarms and that they are properly located, regularly tested and maintained.

- Place smoke alarms outside each sleeping area, inside any bedroom where the door is typically shut and every story of the house, including the basement.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Clean smoke alarms regularly by vacuuming them with a brush attachment.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years to achieve optimum performance.

Learn how to change batteries, smoke alarms, and troubleshooting for chirping detectors: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zoraSXcdZDc>.

The fire district will change batteries and install new smoke alarms if a homeowner is unable to do so. Please contact Kevin Gaidos for more information about this program at (509) 967-2945 or kgaidos@bcfd4.org.



Replace your alarms after 10 years.

Smoke alarms do not last forever. If your alarms are 10 years old or older, replace them with new alarms.

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