

EAST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT



A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF



Fire Chief Mike Riel

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2015 CALLS FOR SERVICE:

STRUCTURE FIRES:

36

BRUSH FIRES:

51

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:

6

EMS INCLUDING VEHICLE ACCIDENTS:

512

PUBLIC SERVICE CALLS:

32

FALSE CALLS:

141

TECHNICAL RESCUE:

0

MISCELLANEOUS / SERVICE CALLS:

62

2015 TOTALS THUS FAR:

840

With the summer ending and fall beginning, we look back to see how quickly this year has gone by. This year brought with it a high wildland fire threat throughout the district, the valley and in many states. This seems to be the expected norm for our summers.

As you have seen in many areas throughout our state and other states, there have been huge impacts and loss from wildland fires. Our fire district which has a significant amount of wildland interface also experienced significant fires during this summer. These fires were limited only by the direct effects of our staffing 24 hour/7 days a week coverage, our paid on call firefighter's and mutual aid system.

We are currently engaged in the 2016 budget preparation. As previously identified in our April News Letter, we will begin revisions to our Strategic Plan in late November and early December continuing into the

spring of 2016. The revised Strategic Plan will be a key instrument to laying out the future of the fire district over the next 5 years. We are very aware of the increasing growth throughout the Fire District both in residential and business expansions.

We are aggressively looking into the future service delivery needs of the fire district. We submitted for a Safer Grant that could have funded more career positions but, unfortunately were not awarded it this time around. We have assigned one of our personnel to continue the focus on researching and applying for future grants to aid in the districts growth needs. These needs continue to be my number one focus so to keep pace with the increasing needs and service delivery that are quickly approaching.

This year was also our time to revisit the Contract Agreement with our career firefighters and the Fire District. The districts

union members are a sub group under Local 469, Yakima Fire Department. This was our first opportunity to work with the Local 469 representatives and it was a very productive and positive effort in working together to develop the new contract. I would; as well as IAFF Local 469 representatives, like to thank and give credit to Commissioner Joseph Gendron for all his contributions in this negotiation process.

I would like to continue to thank all of our personnel, their families, fire commissioners' and tax payers who make our service possible.

Please visit our web site at www.ycfd4.org for current information, events and a great resource to learn about your local Fire Department.

-Chief Riel



Working
**SMOKE ALARMS
SAVE LIVES**

Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

"Dedicated To Life Safety"

PREVENTION DIVISION

When the weather turns cold most people spend more time inside their homes using fireplaces, furnaces, and heaters to keep warm. There's nothing quite as cozy as a fire, but it presents some safety hazards. Keep these tips in mind.

SERVICE YOUR FURNACE

Before the cold autumn and winter weather sets in, be sure to call your heating and cooling company to service your furnace. A specialist should inspect the furnace to make sure everything is in working order and that there are no leaks.

FIREPLACE SAFETY

Keep that fire in its proper place by using a fireplace screen to keep sparks from flying out of the fireplace. Never leave a burning fire unattended, and make sure a fire in a fireplace is completely out before going to bed.

USAGE OF SPACE HEATERS

A space heater can be an effective way to warm up a chilly room, but it's essential that you read the instructions on the unit before you use it. If your space heater requires venting, make sure you have vented it to the outdoors. Never use your stove or oven to heat your home; only use space heaters that are approved for this purpose. Always allow at least three feet of empty area around space heaters.

LEAF BURNING

Reports show that burning leaves produces dangerous and cancer-causing chemicals and urges homeowners to avoid disposing of leaves this way. If you decide to burn leaves, wear a protective mask. Burning leaves should only be attempted far away from a house or other structures on a homeowner's property. Always check the weather forecast before starting to burn leaves. This activity should not be attempted in windy conditions.

EVFD FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

The East Valley Firefighter's Association would like to congratulate the recipients of the EVFA scholarship award. Riley Benedetti and Ariana Faith were this year's winners. The EVFA awarded \$500 to each student for their amazing work both in and out of the classroom. Congratulations and good luck!

CANDLE SAFETY

Candles are a great way to give a room that warm glow, but they can also cause fires. Nearly 10,000 home fires start with improper candle use. Never leave candles burning if you go out or go to sleep, and keep your candles away from pets and kids

SMOKE DETECTORS

Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors when you turn back your clocks for Daylight Saving Time. Make sure to check the alarms with the new batteries installed. Check and replace any home fire extinguishers that have expired.

DRIVER SAFETY

Falling leaves, while beautiful, can obscure your vision, as can rain and fog. Shorter days are part of the fall season, making it more difficult to see children playing or people walking and riding bicycles. Be aware of limitations in your visibility, and slow down if you can't see well. Use your dimmed headlights in bad weather with decreased visibility. If possible, try not to be on the roads when it's hard to see.

WATCH FOR ICE

As the temperatures drop further at night, a driver will need to spend some extra time in the morning scraping frost off his or her vehicle. Shady spots on the roadway may be home to black ice, which a driver may not be aware of until his or her car starts to skid on it.

A big thank you from your EVFD Fire Prevention Division!

This year the EVFA participated in the Children Wishes and Dreams convoy. We were able to monetarily give a donation and give an inspirational drive with a lucky few through the City of Yakima and Selah. The children loved the ride. It was our pleasure to be a part of such an amazing event!

RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Yakima County Fire District #4 is looking for highly motivated individuals to join our team in serving the needs of our citizens. The East Valley Fire Department prides itself on the training of newly hired Firefighters. We educate our personnel in the roles of Firefighting and Emergency Medical Service's. The fire service is a very rewarding occupation, whether you are looking at making it a career or looking to help your local community. Applications can be picked up at EVFD Headquarters located at 2003 Beaudry Rd. Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

26 YEARS OF SERVICE

Captain Dave Deccio

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
DEDICATED SERVICE**



FILL THE BOOT

This year, your East Valley Firefighters and the Firefighters of the City of Yakima participated in the annual Fill the Boot drive in downtown Union Gap. The purpose of the event is to raise money and awareness for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. This year, like many others was a huge success as we were able to collect a grand total of

\$10,772. Thank you to all who came out and supported this great cause!



Chairman Joe Gendron



Commissioner Dan McNulty



Commissioner Les Riel

Your East Valley Fire Department Board of Commissioner's want to thank you all for your unwavering dedication to your local fire department and wish you all the best during the holiday season.

Thank you to our personnel, their families, fire commissioners' and tax payers who make our service possible.

Please visit our web site @ www.ycfd4.org